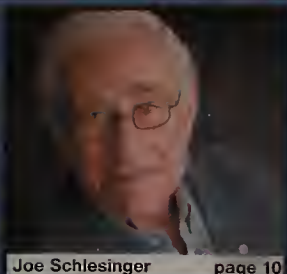


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Joe Schlesinger page 10

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Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin High School participate in their first Terry Fox National School Run



Hillel Academy students Sasha Berman (front) and Itay Saar, cheered on by Yitzhak Rabin High School students, cross the finish line, September 25, during the Terry Fox National School Run. See story on page 16.

(Photo: Nicola Hamer)

Schalit video ignites debate, pressure for deal with Hamas

By Leslie Susser
JERUSALEM (JTA) – The release of the video showing captive Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit alive and apparently healthy is likely to raise the pressure on the Netanyahu government to secure his release.

The Schalit family and advocates for the soldier's release say they intend to launch an intensive public

campaign to parlay public sympathy roused by the video to press the government to go the extra mile for his release.

But they're not getting their hopes up just yet. More than three years have passed since Schalit was captured in a Palestinian attack along the Gaza-Israel border, and the Schalit family is worried the mo-

mentum created by the video will fizzle and the soldier's plight again will recede from the headlines.

In the video released October 2, Schalit looks fit in a well-pressed uniform as he holds an Arabic newspaper dated September 14, 2009.

Besides dispelling any lingering doubts about his physical

(Continued on page 2)

Community leader Gerry Levitz passes away

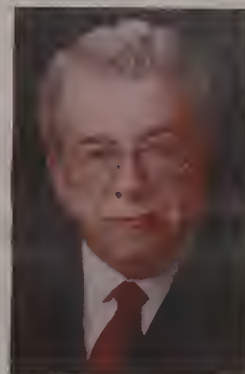
By Cynthia Nyman Engel
Lawrence Gerald Levitz – Gerry – died October 3, some 110 days after he entered hospital to wage a courageous battle with the same leukemia that had claimed his father. He was 68 years old.

In accordance with his wishes, Gerry was buried in the new talit he purchased on his last trip to Israel. He also left instructions that, when the time came, his 'regular' talit – the talit he wore for davening in synagogue – be passed to his first grandson.

Throughout every one of the 110 days of his ordeal, his beloved wife, Ingrid, was at his side. His children, Stephanie and Naomi Ruth, kept a steady vigil. And, all the while as the disease relentlessly sabotaged his body, Gerry's mind remained sound, a blessing for him and for his loved ones.

Gerry's passing will be keenly felt by his family, extended family, colleagues, friends, the Jewish community and the community-at-large. Highly intelligent, scrupulously ethical, honourable and fair, Gerry's great gift was his ability to listen to all sides of a challenging situation and sort it out to everyone's satisfaction.

"He was the rock, the one everyone in the family went to for advice," said his sister-in-law, Cally Kardash.



Gerry Levitz

"He will be sorely missed."

He was also a rock in Ottawa's Jewish community.

Gerry, the eldest son of Ida and Ernest Levitz, was born in Comer Brook, Newfoundland, which boasted a Jewish community of 20 families. As a child of the 1940s and '50s, Gerry was influenced by his parents' generation's dedication to shul and cheder. In 1956, at the age of 15, he was invited to address the United Church of Canada Men's Club on Israel's role in the Suez War. He accompanied his talk with hand-drawn maps and left his audience very well informed.

After graduating from Dalhousie

(Continued on page 2)

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Levitz was 2006 recipient of Gilbert Greenberg Award

(Continued from page 1)
University as a bachelor of commerce, he earned his designation as a chartered accountant in Quebec. In 1968, he joined the Ottawa accounting office of the late Martin K. Levinson and was assigned to work on the JCC, Vaad and related community accounts. His meeting with Hy Hochberg, then executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'Ir (now the Jewish Federation of Ottawa) was a turning point in the young man's life.

When Hochberg persuaded Gerry to assume the presidency of the Jewish Social Services Agency (now Jewish Family Services), Gerry's Jewish communal career was launched. During his presidency, the agency received official charity status and was recognized as a beneficiary agency of both the United Way and the City of Ottawa Social Services Department.

After he married and had children, Gerry made Jewish education a priority. He joined the Tal-

mud Torah Board and rose to its presidency. In an earlier interview, he said, "One of the things that a good Jewish education gives you is that you are proud to be Jewish. Jewish continuity and Jewish education are twins that cannot be separated."

Gerry was elected Vaad president in 2001, serving in that capacity until 2003. It was during his presidency the Future Planning Task Force was formed that ultimately saw the Vaad evolve into the Federation. He also sat as a member of the board and executive committee of United Israel Appeal of Canada, was a past-president of B'nai Brith Parliament Lodge and past-chair of Young Leadership Development-Ottawa Vaad Ha'Ir.

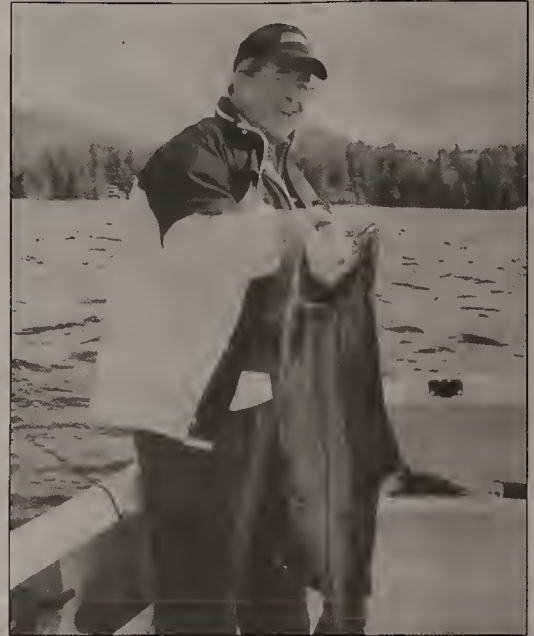
In 2006, in recognition of his commitment and leadership, Gerry was awarded the Gilbert Greenberg Award, the Ottawa Jewish community's highest honour. He was also the recipient of the Governor-General's Golden Jubilee Medal.

As the managing partner of the Ottawa accounting firm, Ginsberg, Gluzman, Faige & Levitz, (GGFL) from 1984 to 2007, Gerry earned the respect of his colleagues and of all of the prominent firm's extended clientele. He also served as president of DFK International and Canada, an international association of independent accounting firms and business advisers.

An avid fisherman, a cigar smoking, single malt scotch drinking duplicate bridge player, Gerry was also vice-president of the Elvis Presley Sighting Society, an Elvis Presley appreciation club headquartered at the Newport Restaurant, which raises funds for local charities.

Gerry is survived by his wife, Ingrid, daughters Stephanie (Dr. Allan Shifrin) and Naomi Ruth, and his brother, Dr. Jamie Levitz.

Avid fisherman Gerry Levitz was managing partner of Ginsberg Gluzman Faige & Levitz from 1984 to 2007.



Release could break Israeli-Palestinian deadlock

(Continued from page 1)
well-being, the video's public release was intended to soften any public opposition in Israel to the idea of trading hundreds of Palestinian prisoners – many involved in the worst terrorist attacks of the past decade – for a single Israeli soldier.

It could help Hamas get the kind of deal it wants and the Netanyahu government sell such a deal to the Israeli public.

The video has revived an intense debate in Israel over what price it should pay for Schalit's release.

Opponents of a large prisoner exchange argue that surrendering to terrorist blackmail will only encourage more kidnappings and, if Schalit is released, terrorists



A video made on September 14, 2009 shows captive Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit alive and apparently uninjured.
(Photo: Nati Shohat/Flash 90/JTA)

with blood on their hands who will be set free from Israeli prisons could kill more innocent Israelis.

Thirty-three heads of pre-military training academies

across Israel wrote recently to Defense Minister Ehud Barak strongly urging him not to allow the release of terrorists with blood on their hands. They argued that all young

recruits should know army service is designed to defend the state and there are no "insurance policies."

Barak and Israel Defense Forces' chief of staff Lt.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi counter that to boost motivation on the battlefield, soldiers should know the state will do all it can to free those who are captured.

Larger issues are at stake, too. A major prisoner exchange deal between Israel and Hamas could help create conditions for a new and different kind of Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in which Hamas plays a pivotal role.

On the table would be the opening of the border crossing points into Gaza in return for a long-term cease-fire of 10 years or more. That, in

turn, could pave the way for serious negotiations on Palestinian statehood with a unified Palestinian leadership.

For now, all this seems a far cry, with virtually everything on the Israeli-Palestinian agenda deadlocked. Releasing Schalit could help break the logjam.

Hamas officials hint that a deal could happen quickly. They are portraying the video – traded for the release of 20 Palestinian women in Israeli prisons – as the first phase of a larger deal. They say an exchange of Schalit for more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners could happen in as little as six weeks.

Among those Hamas wants released are hundreds who actively participated in terrorist attacks against Israelis. That is the main stumbling block for Israel, which is loath to free prisoners it defines as terrorists with blood on their hands.

"If Israel wants to wrap up this affair, it could be concluded quickly," Mahmoud al-Zahar, a Hamas official in Gaza, told Israel's daily *Ha'aretz*, hinting that Hamas

might show some flexibility. "Not everything is written in stone."

Hamas clearly wants to deal, mainly to improve its image among Palestinians in the run-up to elections scheduled for early next year. The suffering and deprivation in Gaza following Israel's 22-day military operation last December and January has hurt Hamas politically. A major prisoner release would greatly boost its public standing.

As to the contours of a possible deal, there is no argument about the majority of the prisoners Israel would release. The sticking point is some 450 prisoners Hamas wants – and insists upon without exception.

The London-based Arabic daily *Ashark al-Awsat* reports there are two other major obstacles: Israel's reluctance to release Israeli and eastern Jerusalem Arabs on the Hamas list. The paper also claims Israel knows where Schalit is being held, but will not storm the hiding place for fear Schalit would be killed by his captors before a rescue could be affected.

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Sunday, December 6th, 2009



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS PERFORMED A MITZVAH? IF SO, PLEASE LET US KNOW!

The 2009 Mitzvah Day Committee is looking for local Mitzvah-Kids from grade K to 12 who have done something good for someone else! Submit a brief description of the Mitzvah and they just might win a special prize that will be presented to them during the Mitzvah Day Opening Ceremonies Sunday, December 6, 2009!


*Deadline November 23, 2009. Please leave all nominations at the front desk of the JCC in an envelope marked "Attention Lindsay Rothenberg"

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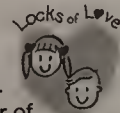
We are pleased to announce that we will be partnering with Sole Responsibility and collecting gently used running shoes (child and adult sizes) to be sent to refugees in countries such as Cameroon, Chat, Rwanda and Lesotho.

* We ask that you tape a toonie to the inside of the shoe to offset shipping costs.
Please bring your shoes to the JCC on Sunday, December 6, 2009 between 8am and 12pm.

sole
responsibility

DONATE YOUR HAIR AND SHOW YOU CARE!

This year kids, adults and teens are once again invited to donate their hair to Locks of Love. Professional stylists are generously donating their time to cut the ponytails and style the hair of those who are donating.



For more information, please contact Lindsay Rothenberg at (613) 798-4696 ext 270, or lrothenberg@jewishottawa.com

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Choices: Brigitte Gabriel to speak on the threat from Islamofascism

By Cynthia Nyman Engel

If Brigitte Gabriel is right, we're in for the fight of our lives.

"That we have not yet had another terrorist attack in the United States is remarkable, but it will happen," says the acclaimed author of the best-selling books, *Because They Hate: A Survivor of Terror Warns America and They Must Be Stopped: Why We Must Defeat Radical Islam and How We Can Do It*.

"Al Qaeda keeps its promises," she says. "The enemy is relentless. It is determined. The enemy loves death far more than we love life."

Gabriel will be the keynote speaker at the third annual *Choices* evening on Thursday, November 5.

Gabriel speaks from first-hand experience. An only child, she was born to a Christian family in Marjayoun, Lebanon, a small town near the Israeli border. She says that, during the Lebanese Civil War, militants launched an assault on a Lebanese military base near her family's house and bombed her home during a national attempt to overrun the Lebanese government. Her parents' life savings and their restaurant were destroyed in the bombings. Gabriel was injured and spent two-and-a-half months recovering in a hospital.

Gabriel says she and her parents had to live in an eight-by-10-foot bomb shelter for seven years with only a small kerosene

heater, no sanitary systems, no electricity or running water and little food. To get water, she says, she had to crawl in a ditch alongside a road to a spring to evade Muslim snipers.

In 1978, Gabriel says, her family was warned of an impending attack on Christians by militias. She says her life was saved that night when Israelis invaded Lebanon in Operation Litani. Later, her mother was seriously injured and taken to an Israeli hospital where Gabriel observed the humanity of the Israelis, which was in stark contrast to the anti-Jewish propaganda she heard as a child.

Gabriel is a former news anchor for *World News*, the Arabic evening news broadcast for Middle East Television, a Christian television station seen throughout Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. She covered the Israeli withdrawal from central Lebanon, the Israeli Security Zone and the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza. In 1989, she immigrated to the United States and founded a television production, marketing and advertising agency.

In June 2002, Gabriel founded the American Congress for Truth, a.k.a. *ACT! for America*, to "clear away the fog of the brutal attack of September 11, 2001." Its purpose: "to preserve our cherished values and freedoms." *ACT! for America* has hundreds of chapters across the United States and members in 20

other countries.

"If we don't win the war against *Islamofascism*, other issues won't matter at all," warns Gabriel on the *ACT! for America* website (actforamerica.org). "We *won't* have an economy to worry about. We *won't* have equal rights for all. We *won't* have our cherished freedom. And we *will* live under Sharia Law."

Gabriel is a member of the board of advisers of the Intelligence Summit and lectures nationally and internationally on global terrorism. She has addressed the former prime minister of Australia John Howard; members of the U.S. Congress; the Joint Forces Staff College; the United States Special Operations Command; the FBI; and members of the House of Commons in London. She is also a regular guest analyst on Fox News Channel, CNN, MSNBC and various radio stations.

Choices – chaired by Jennifer Kardash – is a program of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Women's Division and is an event for women only on Thursday, November 5, 6:00 pm, at



Brigitte Gabriel, founder of *Act! for America*, will be the keynote speaker at the third annual *Choices* event, November 5.

the Hellenic Meeting & Reception Centre, 1315 Prince of Wales Drive.

To reserve a ticket, contact Lindsay Rothenberg at 613-798-4696, ext. 270, or lrothenberg@jewishottawa.com.

Newlywed membership at SJCC

By Pamela Rosenberg
for Soloway JCC

The Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC) has launched a new membership aimed at getting recently married couples involved and integrated into the community.

The Newlywed Membership starts with a free three-month trial membership available to anyone, of any age, who has recently tied the knot. After the three months, the couple can choose the annual membership category that best suits them at a prorated cost.

The idea behind the Newlywed Membership is to involve new families in the community right from the beginning and to give them an opportunity to continue their connection with Jewish life no matter what their religious affiliation or background.

"The Soloway JCC is a non-denominational organization, open to everyone. Young fam-

ilies are the future of our community and we offer great programs," says Gustavo Rymberg, Soloway JCC marketing director. "The Soloway JCC is a great place to socialize, network and meet other young families."

Like all Soloway JCC Membership, this new category includes access to the fitness centre, more than 30 fitness classes per week and a free orientation session with a certified fitness professional.

Newlywed Members can use the gym, play racquetball, swim in the saltwater pool and have the privilege of members' pricing on all programs and classes, including dance, art, languages, sports, camps and more for the duration of their membership.

For information on the Newlywed Membership, contact Soloway JCC Membership Director Patrice Berdowski at 613-798-9818, ext. 233, or pberdowski@jccottawa.com.



You are invited to our

Art & Fine Craft Show

At the Soloway JCC

Sunday, November 15th 10am-4pm

Free Admission

Participating artists: Gabriela Candrut, Renée Deschamps, Gladstone Clayworks, Susan Glazer, Linda Galdberg, Sylvia Klein, Ruth Secunda, Carol Steinberg, Sandra Webster



Elena Keen - textile art Luminita Serbanescu - watercolour Jean Boulay - photography

A portion of the proceeds supports Tamir.

What's happening at Congregation Beth Shalom

Sunday, November 1	Father and Son Tallit and Tefillin Day
Thursday, November 5	Kibbitz Club Lunch and a Movie
Saturday, November 15	Syna-Gig Musical Concert
Saturday, November 21	Tot Shabbat with Kiddish luncheon
Thursday, December 3	Kibbitz Club Lunch
Sunday, December 6	Father and Son Tallit and Tefillin Day

Watch for more upcoming events Everyone is Welcome!

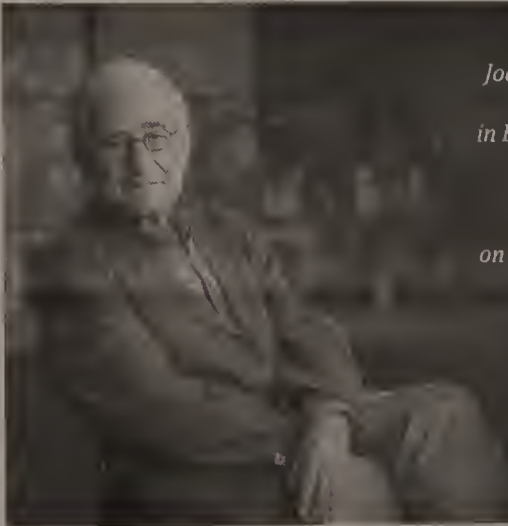
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at 613-789-3501 or info@bethshalom.ca
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HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK

Launch Event

November 9, 2009 • 7:00 PM

JOE SCHLESINGER



Joe Schlesinger was a young boy when his parents sent him and his younger brother from Bratislava, Czechoslovakia to the safety of relatives in England on the Kindertransport, the name given to the rescue mission that took place nine months prior to the outbreak of the Second World War.

Schlesinger and his brother were two of the 669 Jewish children saved on this particular transport. When the brothers returned to Bratislava at the end of the Second World War, they learned their parents had been killed in the Holocaust.

*The award-winning veteran journalist, author,
Member of the Order of Canada and child survivor of the Holocaust
will share his personal story.*

Hellenic Meeting & Reception Centre
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A program of the Shoah (Holocaust) Committee
www.jewishottawa.com



The key is giving: your dollars, your time, yourself

When we are asked about our goals for the 2010 campaign, the short answer is *more involvement and more money*. The more thoughtful response is – to strengthen commitment to our community, instill a passion for Jewish life and the State of Israel and inspire the next generation of community leaders.

Given the toll the economic crisis has taken on Jewish communities and charitable giving worldwide, we may experience a more challenging year. However, we plan to forge ahead optimistically, with this year's campaign targeted to raise \$5 million dollars to allocate amongst our local agencies, Israel and overseas.

This year's campaign slogan – *When You Give, We Thrive* – speaks to our straightforward approach to the campaign. Whether you choose to give of your time or your financial resources, both are significant contributions and both provide a return on your investment.

We are fortunate in Ottawa to have more than 200 canvassers and over 3,500 donors in a community of 5,500 Jewish households. This is a tremendous participation rate and a clear indicator of the spirit and dedication we are infused



Federation Report

Jason Shinder, chair
and Linda Kerzner, women's chair
Annual Campaign

with in Ottawa's Jewish community.

But, in times of restraint, how do we continue to strengthen the commitment to our community and inspire people to participate enthusiastically and contribute so that we will continue to thrive?

We wholeheartedly believe that cultivating a passion for, and commitment to, our community is fuelled by strengthening our connections to one another through shared experiences. The Federation offers many such opportunities to bring Jews from all corners of the community together.

This year's Women's Campaign event, *Choices*, scheduled for November 5, offers a great shared experience to meet old friends, make new ones, be inspired and support the community, all in one evening! Mitzvah Day, our annual 'give

back day' on December 6, draws upon all sectors of the community to perform good deeds for those who need it most and at no cost! A community Mission to Italy and Israel is scheduled for the spring and will provide the unique opportunity to connect with others locally, while discovering both Italy and Israel. The Young Women's Leadership Council is starting anew on October 22, engaging women between the ages of 25 and 45 wanting to become more involved in community leadership.

This year, another critical focus of our work will be directed towards developing the next generation of community leaders. Hillel Ottawa: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life has become a beacon for Jewish university students in Ottawa. We see in this group a heightened awareness

and commitment to issues that affect the world, multiculturalism and universality. We need to harness their energy, cultivate their enthusiasm and encourage their participation. They are our Jewish future.

This next generation of leadership hopefuls needs to establish an individual and collective identity to ensure righteousness and justice throughout the world. We need to create opportunities that will foster leadership, integrity, and compassion amongst this generation. And, to do so, we must model behaviour that motivates our youth to get involved to help our most vulnerable, to stop genocide, to advocate on behalf of Jews and Israel, to resettle victims of violence or disaster, to fight for the rights of the poor and new immigrants and to educate our children Jewishly. Ultimately, we need to build bridges whereby the next generation can be distinctively Jewish but universally humane.

The key in all of this is 'giving' ... of your dollars ... of your time ... of yourself. We will all Thrive.

Anyone wishing to get involved or to find out more about the Annual Campaign and our many programs, please contact the campaign office at 613-798-4696, ext. 232.

Bilam didn't understand the lesson of the donkey

Bilam was a contemporary of Moshe, a prophet and sorcerer, hired by Balak, king of Moab, to put a curse on Israel. He knew he could not succeed without God's acquiescence, and God had made it clear that cursing Israel was not on the agenda.

Bilam, however, thought he could fool God and set off to meet the king of Moab. God sent a sword-wielding angel to stand in his path.

Bilam did not sense the angel, but his donkey did. Twice the donkey veered off the path and was struck by Bilam. Finally, the donkey lay down and the enraged Bilam struck it a third time.

Then God opened the mouth of the donkey.

"What have I done to you that you struck me these three times?" he asked.

Rashi explains the donkey was hinting to Bilam about the pilgrimage festivals of Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot.

There are many questions to tackle when studying this Biblical passage: What message is God conveying to Bilam? How do Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot protect the Jewish people from the curse of Bilam?

One of the great lessons we learn from the Chumash is the amazing ability of human beings to be awed and elevated by a holy encounter then walk away as if nothing happened.

The Jewish people witnessed the miracles of the 10 plagues and the Exodus then, days later, questioned whether it would have been better to have remained



From the pulpit

Rabbi
Ari Galandauer
Young Israel

in Egypt. They heard God speak at Mount Sinai, and, 40 days later, danced around a golden calf.

To address this problem, Pirkei Avot teaches that, when learning, we must learn for the sake of doing.

This means taking something from the learning experience and putting it into practice. If nothing practical comes from learning, then something is lacking in the learning process.

That was the greatness of Moshe. When he came to the burning bush, he stopped to find out why the bush was not being consumed. Bilam, on the other hand, did not stop to wonder about his donkey's bizarre behaviour, nor was he affected when his donkey began to speak!

Because it's so important for us to learn and act upon our experiences, the Torah gave us the three pilgrimage festivals as opportunities to absorb the unique atmosphere of the Temple and the holy city of Jerusalem with the intent "that you will learn to fear Hashem, your God, all the days," even after you leave.

So the donkey tells Bilam, "Three times

I have led you on a merry chase, and three times your only reaction has been to strike out at me.

"You have learned nothing, and have not even stopped to ask what might be happening to you. "And you hope to destroy a people who have a spiritual program called the pilgrimage festivals?"

"Three times a year, Israel ascends the Temple mount, receiving national inspiration, reminding them that they stand before God, and taking that awareness with them when they leave!

"Do you, Bilam, really think that you can destroy such a people?"

As we celebrate Sukkot and reflect on the High Holiday period, let us remember the journey we have been on over the past month need not end when we return the Torah scrolls to the ark on Simchat Torah.

Let us take all that we have learned, all that we have experienced, and all our growth into the winter months and be warmed by the memories of what was and what still is.

Shana Tova Umetuka.

ottawa jewish bulletin

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Interfaith dialogue: Building bridges between our communities

Last month, I attended a lecture and panel discussion at Library and Archives Canada that featured Bruce Bawer, author of *White Europe Slept: How Radical Islam is Destroying the West from Within and Surrender: Appeasing Islam, Sacrificing Freedom*.

It was a disturbing, thought-provoking evening.

Bawer is an influential gay American author and cultural critic who left the United States in 1998 because of the increasing influence of fundamentalist Christianity on the public discourse in that country. But, in moving to Europe – he now lives in Norway – he says he found an even more insidious brand of fundamentalism there in the form of radical Islam, which has misappropriated multiculturalism and used it to stifle western liberalism and openness. Bawer warned that the influence of radical Islam has also been growing here in North America in recent years.

Bawer pointed out that the stifling of western liberalism is being accomplished in various ways from overt terrorism and violence – for example, the murder of Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh after he made a short documentary, *Submission*, detailing the abuse of Muslim women – to abusing human rights tribunals. Recent examples of that in Canada have included complaints against Ezra Levant at the Alberta Human Rights Commission for publishing the



Editor

Michael
Regenstreif

Danish cartoons depicting Muhammad, and against columnist Mark Steyn and *Maclean's* magazine at the Ontario Human Rights Commission for Steyn's article, "The Future Belongs to Islam."

Bawer also pointed to the new book, *The Cartoons That Shook the World* by Jytte Klausen, about the Danish cartoons controversy, mentioning that the publisher, Yale University Press, was intimidated into removing the cartoons from the book, thus depriving readers of actually seeing what the book was talking about.

Brigitte Gabriel – an Arab Christian who grew up in Lebanon and is now an American – is another speaker with a message similar to Bawer's. As noted in the article on page 4 of this issue of the *Bulletin*, Gabriel will be in Ottawa on November 5 as keynote speaker at this year's *Choices* event presented by the Federation's Women's Division.

But, while the threats from radical Islam that Bawer and Gabriel warn us about are real, and we must remain vigilant against

them, we must not lose sight of the fact that extremists do not represent the Muslim mainstream and that there are people and organizations dedicated to building bridges between our communities.

Two such people from Jerusalem, Rabbi Ron Kronish and Mohamad Sibdeh, a kadi (Sharia court judge), will be in Ottawa on Sunday, October 25 to talk about how Muslims and Jews, as communities and individuals, can, and do, talk and work together. As noted in the articles on page 13, there will be *Rabbi & Kadi* events in the morning at Temple Israel and in the evening at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

Last month, I wrote about the tiff at TIFF – the Toronto International Film Festival – over the selection of Tel Aviv as this year's featured city in its new *City to City* program spotlighting the cinema of a different international city each year. A group led by John Greyson and Naomi Klein protested the selection of Tel Aviv with a declaration painting Israel as a brutal, repressive apartheid regime.

A number of major film artists lined up behind the protesters and a number of others lined up in support of Tel Aviv.

Surprisingly, given her long record of pro-Palestinian activism, one of the major film artists supporting Tel Aviv is Vanessa Redgrave. In a letter she co-authored for

publication in the October 22 issue of *The New York Review of Books*, Redgrave opposes the TIFF protest saying the "citizens of Tel Aviv and their organizations and their cultural outlets should be applauded and encouraged."

Redgrave and co-authors Julian Schnabel and Martin Sherman, all noted leftists, slam the protesters for referring to Israel as an apartheid regime.

"We oppose the current Israeli government," they write, "but it is a government. Freely elected. Not a regime. Words matter."

Redgrave further parts company with leftists like Klein who seek to delegitimize Israel. "If attitudes are hardened on both sides, if those who are fighting within their own communities for peace are insulted, where then is the hope? The point finally is not to grandstand but to inch toward a two-state solution and a world in which both nations can exist, perhaps not lovingly, but at least in peace."

The same crowd that protested Tel Aviv at TIFF also tried to intimidate the masterful singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen into cancelling his September 24 concert in Tel Aviv. Cohen, whose grandfather, Lyon Cohen, was the founding president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, stood up to the negativity of the anti-Israel boycotters and turned his concert into a benefit that raised \$2 million for groups promoting peace and dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

Facing Sweater Vest Guy is one thing, but the fifth Beatle?

When I checked out my Facebook news feed the other day, I knew Michael Ignatieff was in trouble.

No, I'm not a Facebook friend of the Liberal leader, so I have no idea if he posted any sort of news – troubled or otherwise – in his status update.

But here's what I saw after I logged onto my Facebook account:

"An online video of Stephen Harper playing piano and singing the Beatles' classic song 'With a Little Help from my Friends' at the National Arts Centre, accompanied by internationally famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma."

I saw it more than once. It was posted multiple times in my news feed by multiple Facebook friends. My more partisan friends added more partisan comments. My less partisan friends added comments such as "Wow!"

It wasn't only my friends who were watching and posting the video. A day after the prime minister did his best Ringo impression in a surprise appearance at an NAC gala chaired by his wife, the video was the number one most-watched YouTube video in Canada.

Two other video versions of the same performance were in the top 10.

Although Tory bloggers began spreading it around the web, the video's non-par-



Alan Echenberg

tisan appeal helped it go viral.

And, over a couple of days, the virus spread from the Internet to the weekend news programs and to the front pages of the daily newspapers, with photos of the PM's performance alongside largely favourable reviews.

In the last federal election, a Conservative ad agency put Harper in a fuzzy sweater vest, sat him in a comfy old armchair, bathed him in a soft, warm light and shot a series of campaign ads of him talking softly about his values as a piano tinkler in the background and strings soared.

The ads didn't really do their job – which was to soften up Harper's mean-guy image and help win him a majority government – and they were largely abandoned by campaign's end, Stephen Harper just doesn't credibly feel like a sweater vest kind of guy.

But a relaxed and surprisingly talented PM singing a Beatles' tune on stage at a

music gala? Well, that's a different story – and fodder for the kind of political advertising that money can't buy.

On the *Maclean's* magazine website, Scott Feschuk joked that in the wake of Harper's tuneful triumph, "Jack Layton is tuning his guitar, Elizabeth May is figuring out how to deliver her speeches via karaoke and Michael Ignatieff is ... I don't know, what would Michael Ignatieff play? The lute? The equiviconium? The underwhelm-o-spiel? I fear a four-hour one-man play may be the price we pay for Harper's Beatles cover. Ladies and gentlemen, Michael Ignatieff is Michael Ignatieff in *Michael Ignatieff*."

How do you compete with a singing, piano-playing, crowd-pleasing prime minister? That's what the Liberal leader must have been thinking when the story broke.

In the coverage of the Singing PM, it did not go unremarked that, on the very weekend that Harper jammed with Yo-Yo, Ignatieff was at a Liberal Party meeting in Quebec City, trying to get out of a political jam created by Liberal MP Denis Coderre.

Coderre had resigned as Ignatieff's Quebec lieutenant in a very publicly damaging way, blasting the advisers around the Liberal leader who had influenced Ignatieff to reverse a riding candidate decision of Coderre's.

The details of the spat are less important than the fact that Coderre had been so public about it, opening the door for further sniping – anonymous and otherwise – from Liberals on both sides of what seemed to be an increasingly divided party.

Ever since Ignatieff emerged from a relatively quiet summer to announce that Liberals no longer planned to support the Conservative minority government, his party has been plagued with negative headlines and poll numbers that put it in the territory it was in when Stéphane Dion led it to one of the worst election defeats in its history.

Indeed, Tories are now musing about achieving the majority government that eluded them in the sweater-vest era. The only thing keeping us from finding out whether that is possible is that the NDP is now supporting the government to keep the minority parliament going.

The NDP reversal may have saved Ignatieff's bacon (or should I say "saved his beef-fry" in this publication?). The Liberal leader's decision to try to provoke an election is looking increasingly suicidal.

It's one thing to run against Sweater Vest Guy. It's an entirely different matter to run against the Fifth Beatle.

Alan Echenberg is TVOntario's Parliamentary bureau chief.

Young Women's Leadership Council to restart

By Benita Baker

An interesting theme emerged during the presentation of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's 75th Anniversary Volunteer Awards last May. A significant number of the female award winners were graduates of Young Women's Leadership Council (YWLC).

Originally established in 1991 under the auspices of United Jewish Appeal Women's Division, YWLC was a one-to-two year program for women between the ages of 25 and 45. The program was designed to enrich participants' knowledge of Jewish issues and the Jewish community, and to encourage them to assume leadership positions in the community.

For 14 years, YWLC thrived. The programming was enlightening, stimulating, controversial, fun and successful. More than 200 women graduated and immediately began giving back to the community by taking on leadership roles, sitting on boards, canvassing, chairing fundraising events and getting more involved. Many won awards, including three Freiman Family Young Leadership Awards.

But something happened in 2006. Interest waned. Registration ceased.

Perhaps the program failed to keep up with the times. Perhaps it was the victim of its own popularity and there were no young women left to participate. Perhaps it lost focus. Whatever the reason, the Jewish community lost a valuable resource.

Happily, YWLC is being revived, thanks to the instigation of Gillian Dolansky. When she heard about all the award winners who had graduated from YWLC, she wondered why such a successful program no longer existed.

"As a young woman in our community looking to get involved, and especially looking to eventually take on a leadership role, I wanted to have an opportunity to take part in such a successful program," she said.

It took a phone call to Federation President and CEO Mitchell Bellman to get the ball rolling. Lindsay Rothenberg, development associate for Women's Division and Young Adult Division, did some research and contacted Linda Nadolny-Cogan who was responsible for originating YWLC and acted as the group's mentor for many years.

Rothenberg recruited Ottawa newcomer Adina Libin to join her and Dolansky on the planning team.

"When I moved to Ottawa, I knew I wanted to be involved in the community, but I had no idea how to go about it," said Libin. "I would have loved to have had someone to show me what is involved in the planning of events or the contributions that I could make to a board."

The women set out to resurrect YWLC by holding true to the tenets of the original program, but also ensuring that the new face of YWLC appeals to a new generation of young women.

Leadership training and community awareness will remain a key objective of the program. Five YWLC graduates have agreed to act as mentors to new members.

Participants will learn about the community from the inside out – the role of the Federation and the various agencies that sustain the community, how the organizations are administered, how decisions are made, how a board of directors operates, how fundraising dollars are allocated.

They will sit as observers on community boards. They will learn about anti-Semitism, Israeli advocacy and national young leadership. They will meet other like-minded women, make new friends and discover the sense of well-being that comes from community involvement.

An open house will be held Thursday, October 22, 7:30 pm, at the home of YWLC graduate Barbara Crook, 11 Clemow Avenue.

Contact Lindsay Rothenberg at 613-798-4696 ext. 270 or lrothenberg@jewishottawa.com

Newcomers' Tea

Do you know any newcomers to Ottawa?
The Ladies' Reception Committee would like to welcome new women at our semi-annual tea
Sunday, November 1, 2009
2:30 - 4:30 pm
at the home of Orly Aaron
13 Roselawn Court, Nepean

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Concentrating resources on day schools

I recently attended a presentation of the UIA Demographic Task Force of census data projections for the Jewish population. The researchers projected that the proportion of individuals in the Ottawa Jewish community living in intermarried households would reach 55.8 per cent by the year 2021. The solution to this 'problem,' apparently, is to invest the community's resources in Jewish day schools. This conclusion is based on the oft cited research of American sociologist Steven Cohen.

Those who have suffered the affliction of a university statistics course will likely recall one point the professor will have driven home: one cannot conclude cause and effect from correlations. Cohen, on the other hand, draws the conclusion that, since adults who attended Jewish day schools are more likely to affiliate with the Jewish community and less likely to intermarry, it was their Jewish Day school experience that somehow inoculated them against a loss of Jewish identity.

An equally viable hypothesis is that the value systems and beliefs of families who send their children to Jewish day school also make them more likely to affiliate and less likely to intermarry. According to this hypothesis, it is the families, not the day school education, that get the credit.

Perhaps it is even time to consider that intermarriage is not a *pox on your house* since the good news is that the vast majority of intermarried couples are opting to raise their children Jewishly. Do we even know the numbers for intermarried Jews doing so?

I did not attend a Jewish Day school. I attended Ottawa Modern Jewish School. So did my two sisters and, collectively, our seven children. The report speaks to creating

pathways for interfaith couples and families through Jewish education and inclusion. We maintain that Ottawa Modern Jewish, a supplementary school that has served the community for well over 50 years, is precisely such a pathway. As of this academic year, our school will no longer receive an allocation from the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

If our community concentrates its resources on day schools, it will certainly serve the interests of those who historically rely on them and who, frankly, are the decision-makers in our community. But, if they are wrong, and other institutions that have historically been the portal for the unaffiliated, intermarried, etc. to become engaged with the Jewish community are permitted to wither and die, we will all be the worse for it.

Marlene Rivier
Past President
Ottawa Modern Jewish School

Letters welcome

Letters to the Editor are welcome if they are brief, signed, timely and of interest to our readership. The *Bulletin* reserves the right to refuse, edit or condense letters. The *Mailbag* column will be published as space permits.

Send your letters to Michael Regenstreif, Ottawa Jewish Bulletin, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9; or by e-mail to bulletin@ottawajewishbulletin.com.



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JNF in the Negev: Meeting the test

Well before 1948, the Negev region in the south of Israel between Be'er Sheva and Eilat was a major focus for the future development of Israel for the state and for the Jewish National Fund, in particular. And it still is.

In the words of David Ben-Gurion: "The Negev will be the test of the Jewish People and the Jewish State – for only through the concerted effort of a people that volunteers and a state that plans and acts will we be able to meet the mighty task of greening and settling the wilderness."

Last May, 120 KKL-JNF representatives from 21 countries met in Ashkelon and discussed how to promote Negev development. After they toured the Negev and saw numerous KKL-JNF projects, participants said what impressed them most was the research on both desert agriculture and sustainability, in which KKL-JNF is at the forefront.

"I'm amazed to see what is being accomplished in the Negev," remarked Frank Wilson, President of JNF Canada. "I feel that we need to invest more time and effort in sharing the fruits of our research with the rest of the world."

And in August, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spoke at the dedication of the new Atzmona Elementary School and Talmud Torah at Shomriya, a village in the Negev that has been resettled by Gaza Strip evacuees. The building of the school is one of many KKL-JNF projects on behalf of the Gush Katif evacuees, which include: land preparation, water reservoirs for agriculture, greenhouses, security roads and many environmental projects. All this has been made possible by the help of KKL-JNF friends worldwide, including JNF America, JNF Canada, JNF UK, JNF Latin America, JNF Australia, KKL-JNF Italy, KKL-JNF France and Belgium.

Our major special project for the 2009 Ottawa JNF Negev Dinner honouring Sara Vered is also focussed on Israel's past and future in the Negev, the preservation and enhancement of the grounds around the cabin in Sede Boqer of David Ben-Gurion and his wife Paula – a site of great historical and cultural significance.

Please remember that our venue is the Château Laurier, and our usual fall date is replaced this year by a spring date: March 22, 2010. All of our fundraising activities, under the very able leadership of Arnie Vered, are taking place, as usual, during the fall, including canvassing by JNF volunteers for advertising and personal tributes for the Negev Dinner souvenir book. Since the Château Laurier has limited seating capacity, and the room will fill up very quickly, please reserve your tickets early. JNF Ottawa is looking forward to very successful fundraising in 2009 for Sara's projects in Israel and we are expecting another sell-out crowd for the Negev Dinner next March.

On a daily basis you can plant trees for all occasions. An attractive card is sent to the recipient. To order, call the JNF office (613.798.2411).



Toby Yan to receive first Terry Schwarzfeld Award

By Ruth Kahane Goldberg
for CHW Ottawa Centre

Canadian Hadassab-WIZO (CHW) Ottawa Centre will present Toby Yan with the first Terry Schwarzfeld Award, CHW Ottawa Council president Esther Kulik has announced.

The award will be presented at the opening meeting, to be attended by CHW National President Maria Dan, on Wednesday, October 28, 7:30 pm, at Temple Israel.

The Terry Schwarzfeld Award was created to perpetuate the memory of the late Terry Schwarzfeld, the organization's beloved member who was installed as CHW national president in November 2008. The trophy, in the

shape of a flame, was designed by members of the Ottawa Council executive and will be presented every two years to an Ottawa CHW member who best exemplifies the ideals of CHW and who has helped to "ignite the passion" of its membership.

Toby Yan is an honorary national vice-president and ardent supporter of CHW who worked with Terry at the Amit Chapter, Ottawa Council, and national levels of the organization. She is a CHW sustainer, a past Ottawa Council president and life member.

The guest speaker at the meeting will be Mira Sucharov, a political science professor at Carleton University, and Ottawa Jewish Bulletin columnist. Her



Toby Yan will receive the first Terry Schwarzfeld Award from CHW Ottawa Centre on October 28.

topic will be *From Politics to Principles: Rethinking Jewish Advocacy*.

For information, you may contact sandybenmett@sympatico.ca.

Kathy Clark to discuss Holocaust remembrance book for young readers

By Roslyn Wollock
Soloway JCC

Children's author Kathy Clark will discuss her latest book, *Guardian Angel House*, Monday, November 2, 7:00 pm, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

The book, written for pre-teen and teenaged readers, is based on the true story of two young Hungarian Jewish sisters, the author's real life mother and aunt, who were sheltered in a convent and cared for by nuns when the Nazis invaded Hungary in 1944.

Clark, who lives in Kanata, does a

wonderful job introducing the story to her audience. The convent, its location in Budapest, a brief description of Hitler's Aryan policies and how Hungary's Jews were able to avoid the transports until Germany invaded Hungary in 1944, provide useful background tools for readers' understanding of the story.

Not long after their father was arrested by Hungarian police, the girls' mother was convinced by a close friend to send the girls to the convent. Although the girls attended daily church services and took catechism

classes during their stay in the convent, no attempt was made to convert them.

Guardian Angel House is an educational and suspenseful read. The evening with Kathy Clark is intended for families with young readers. Fans of such books as Kathy Kacer's *Hiding Edith* and Karen Levine's *Hana's Suitcase* are sure to enjoy listening to, and talking with, the author. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

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Renowned broadcaster Joe Schlesinger to give keynote address launching Holocaust Education Week

By Benita Baker

If you watched *The National*, CBC Television's flagship news program between the mid-1960s and the mid-1990s, Joe Schlesinger was a household name. As a foreign correspondent, he brought the world to Canada, witnessing first-hand and reporting on so many of the events that made history.

He covered the Vietnam War, the Cultural Revolution in China, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Gulf War and the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia. He reported on conflicts in Nicaragua, Israel, Portugal and Iran. He was there when the shah fell in Iran and when John Paul II became pope.

Even though he's been officially retired over the past 15 years, Schlesinger has continued to contribute special reports to CBC News.

The renowned and celebrated journalist also played

an unwitting role in another momentous world event – the Holocaust. Schlesinger is a child survivor of history's worst crime.

Schlesinger will focus on his role as a child survivor, November 9, when he is the keynote speaker at the launch of Ottawa's Holocaust Education Week.

In 1939, Schlesinger was 11 years old and living in Czechoslovakia when Hitler invaded. Anxious to ensure their children's safety, his parents learned of an endeavour that was taking children out of the country to study and board with families in England. It was to be a temporary relocation – the children would return once the trouble at home had passed.

Schlesinger clearly remembers the day he and his younger brother left for England. His father took them to the station and they waited on the platform for the train

that would take them to the ship that would take them across the ocean. A loudspeaker announced that all passengers were required to wait inside the terminal building. But Jews were forbidden from going inside the building, so the Schlesingers waited in the bathroom, amid the smell of urine and bleach.

The voyage must have been terrifying for the shipload of youngsters who had been separated from their families. During the night, Schlesinger remembers hearing them singing the Czech national anthem, whose lyrics begin with "Where is my home, where is my home?"

"Given the circumstances, imagine how emotional that was," he told the *Bulletin* in a recent interview.

Schlesinger and his brother spent the war in the relative safety of London

during the Blitz and later at a boarding school for Czechoslovakian refugee children in Wales. When the war ended, the brothers learned that both their parents had been killed in the Holocaust.

"The last time I saw my father was in that stinking bathroom," said Schlesinger.

Almost 50 years later, Schlesinger discovered that his escape from Czechoslovakia was of one of the great humanitarian rescue stories of the Holocaust. Schlesinger was a 'Winton child,' one of 669 Jewish children saved by Nicholas Winton, a 29-year-old London stockbroker who organized eight rescue missions that took children from Prague to the safety of Great Britain.

Incredibly, Winton never told anyone of his rescue efforts. In 1987, when rummaging through the attic, Winton's wife found a scrapbook from 1939 that was filled with documents, photos and a complete list of every child he helped transport to England. They shared the story with Elisabeth Maxwell, a Holocaust scholar and the wife of the British newspaper magnate, Robert Maxwell. Winton's story was published in the *Sunday Mirror* and featured on the BBC program, *That's Life*.

Winton was reunited with many of the children he saved (some now grandparents) and the children, reunited with each other, became aware of the miraculous and heroic circumstances of their rescue.

When Slovak filmmaker Matej Mináč became aware of the story, he asked Schlesinger to write and narrate a documentary film on Winton's life. *Nicholas Winton: The Power of Good*



Joe Schlesinger will launch Holocaust Education Week on November 9 at the Hellenic Meeting & Receptions Centre, 1315 Prince of Wales Drive.

won an International Emmy Award in 2002. In the documentary, many of the Winton-children interviewed say they felt compelled to do good in their lives to honour their parents and in tribute to what Winton had done for them.

Schlesinger, 81, has received numerous accolades for his journalism accomplishments, including four Gemini awards, the John Drainie Award for distinguished contribution to Canadian broadcasting, three honorary doctorates and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Journalism Foundation. In 1994, he was named a mem-

ber of the Order of Canada.

Certainly Winton, who celebrated his 100th birthday in May, and Schlesinger's late parents would be proud.

The Holocaust Education Week Launch Event featuring keynote speaker Joe Schlesinger will be held on November 9, 7:00 pm, at the Hellenic Meeting & Reception Centre, 1315 Prince of Wales Drive. Tickets – \$10 (general admission), \$5 (seniors) and free (students) – are available at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre front desk.

For more information, contact Sarah Beutel at 613-798-4696, ext. 253, or sbeutel@jewishottawa.com.



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Rabbi Mendel and Dina Blum and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Andrea Shabinsky Borer and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Deborah Ferris, Ron Cherney and families Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

(Continued on page 12)

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(Continued from page 11)

Lori and Stewart Chadnick and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Deans Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year and a long and wonderful life together by Dorothy Nadolny

Barb and Joel Deiner and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Ida Firestone and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Susan and Sam Firestone and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Jeanne and Keith Foot and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Evelyn Greenberg Welcome back to Hillel Lodge. You were missed by all and we look forward to the next birthday party to enjoy your wonderful talent by the Residents and Staff of Hillel Lodge

Elissa and Avraham Iny and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Joany and Andy Katz and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Shelli and Steven Kimmel and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Audrey and Irwin Kriesman and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Eileen Landau Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Irene and Mark Lazarovitz and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Francie and Norman Lieff and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Shelley and Percy Ostroff and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Laurie Pascoe Wishing you a happy birthday and many more by Doris and Steve Rauch

Elissa Lieff and David Resnick and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Cindi and Mark Resnick and family

Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Syrille and Paul Rosman and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Laya and Sol Shalinsky Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Lynn and Mark Shabinsky and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Melissa and Ian Shabinsky and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Rabbi Zischa and Lauren Shaps and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

David Smith Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Jane Ehrenworth and Leonard Shore Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Marla and Mark Spergel and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Sarah and Arnie Swedler In Observance of the Yartzheit of our dear friend Ina by Gold Feig and Ned Steinman

Risa and Brent Taylor and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Lise and Mark Thaw and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Margo and Norman Viner and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Sharon and Lawrie Weinstein and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

Carole and Norman Zagerman Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year by Dorothy Nadolny

Norman Zagerman Wishing you a very happy special birthday and a long and healthy life together with Carole and your family by Dorothy Nadolny

Debi and Neil Zaret and family Warmest wishes from our family to yours for a very happy and healthy New Year by Margo, Joshua, Benjamin, Matthew and Rebecca

A generous donation was made in honour of Suzi Sauv  in recognition of her laughter workshop by the University of Ottawa Cultural Centre 50Plus.

R'FUAH SHLEMA:

Jeffrey M ller by Sharon Rosentzveig and Alan Freed; and the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge

Gail Victor by Jane and Bill James; and Zeld and Leon Zelikovitz

Students publish book on Canadian responses to the Holocaust

By Rebecca Margolis
Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program
University of Ottawa

The faculty of University of Ottawa's Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program – Irving Abella, Pierre Anctil, Rebecca Margolis and Seymour Mayne – have been prolific in our publication of scholarly articles and books, translations, anthologies and works of literature. However, this year, the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program is proud to announce our first published volume of student scholarship: a book called *Creating Remembrance: Canadian Responses to the Holocaust Volume 1*.

The impetus, content and countless hours of hard work came from the students of my third-year undergraduate seminar, 'Canadian Responses to the Holocaust,' which was offered by the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program for the first time last winter.

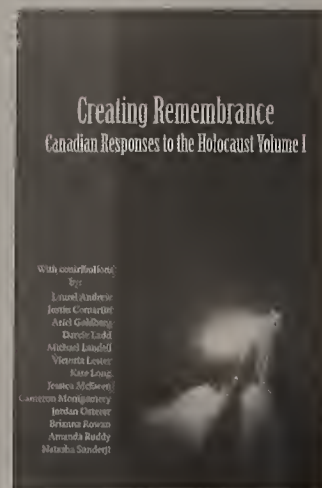
The course, which examined the many ways in which the Nazi Holocaust has entered Canadian life in areas such as government policy, literature and community relations, included a final project that required students to provide a close analysis of a primary source such as a poem, archival collection or memoir. The students produced some exciting work, and the group decided to work together towards the publication of their essays.

The students – Laurel Andrew, Justin Comartin, Ariel Goldberg, Darcie Ladd, Michael Landell, Victoria Lester, Kate Long, Jessica McEwen, Cameron Montgomery, Jordan Osterer, Brianna Rowan, Amanda Ruddy and Natasha Sunderji – took responsibility for the content, as well as the editing, proofreading and design. For most, this marked their first foray into the world of academic publishing. The publication of the book was made possible by a generous donation from Madame Justice Rosalie Abella of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Written by undergraduate students from a wide variety of backgrounds and from diverse areas of study, the essays explore some of the many ways in which Canada has responded to the Holocaust.

The book is divided into three sections: Letters and Learning, Memory and Health, and Politics. Topics include the poetry and prose of A.M. Klein; the National Film Board of Canada's 1965 film *Memorandum*; Holocaust literature and primary and secondary school education; women's Holocaust memoirs; the experiences of Holocaust survivors in Canada; eldercare for survivors; wartime prime minister Mackenzie King's view of the Jews; Nazi war criminals in Canada; and the intersections of anti-Israel protest and Holocaust discourse in Canada.

The essays present innovative findings as



well as explore new directions for research.

As Irving Abella, co-author of *None is Too Many: Canada and the Jews of Europe, 1933-1948*, notes in his introduction to the book, "This is a dazzling compilation of essays on a dismal topic. The response of Canada, its government and its people, we all now know was dispiriting and disgraceful. While millions of Jews were being systematically murdered in Europe, Canada did little to help them."

"Of all the democracies in the world, Canada had by far the worst record in opening its doors to save some of them. It was not one of this country's proudest moments. Yet out of this doleful response, the class has fashioned an admirable set of essays, each of which provides a different and often provocative insight into Canada's behaviour."

Seymour Mayne, co-ordinator of the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program, highlights the significance of the project: "Students did not simply follow the path of scholars who have investigated the subject before them and reiterate what was already known; they opened up the field even further, broadening public awareness and knowledge with their scholarly work."

A limited number of copies of *Creating Remembrance: Canadian Responses to the Holocaust Volume 1* are available for purchase. To order, send a check for \$15 made out to "University of Ottawa" with your mailing address to: Rebecca Margolis, Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program, University of Ottawa, Dept. Classics and Religious Studies, 70 Laurier Ave. East #102, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5.

For more information, contact me at rmargoli@uottawa.ca.

Vered Israel fall programs include interfaith dialogue, film and lecture

By Pamela Rosenberg
for Soloway JCC

The Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program is teaming-up with other local organizations to present a number of programs including a unique interfaith dialogue, a thrilling spy documentary film and a hard-hitting lecture at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC).

Rabbi & Kadi, on Sunday, October 25, 7:30 pm, is a rare opportunity to be part of an interfaith dialogue between two religious leaders from Jerusalem: Rabbi Ron Kronish and Mohammad Sibdeh, a judge (kadi) of Muslim Sharia law. The program is free and is sponsored by Vered Israel and Temple Israel with the support of The Danbe Foundation. The rabbi and kadi will also be at Temple Israel Synagogue, Sunday morning at 10:30.

"We rarely get to hear the other side of the discussion when it comes to religious issues," says Ruthie Prince-Raz, Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program manager. "It's a discussion people try to avoid because no one wants to get into an awkward situation."

See Rabbi Garten's article on this page for more information about this program.

On Sunday, November 1, 7:30 pm, *The Champagne Spy* will be shown. This documentary tells the true story of Mossad agent Major Ze'ev Gur Arie who, in 1961, left his wife and son for Egypt where he gathered information on German scientists, employed by General Abdul Nasser, who were supposedly developing weapons of mass destruction for an attack on Israel.

Posing as German millionaire and ex-Nazi Wolfgang Lotz, a champion horse breeder,

Gur Arie adopted the lifestyle of a leisurely socialite and mingled with scientists and Egyptian elite.

Gur Arie ignored the Mossad's instructions to keep his assignment a secret from his family and told his son Oded, then 12, about his double life. Oded was burdened with this secret throughout his life until he shared his story and never-before-seen family footage with director Nadav Schirman.

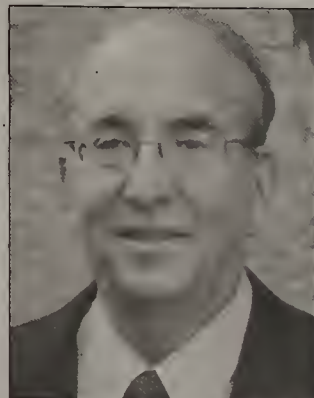
The Champagne Spy is a film of intrigue, espionage, love and betrayal and includes unprecedented co-operation from former Mossad agents. Agency personnel were so moved by the film that they've adopted it for training and family counselling.

The Champagne Spy is a presentation of

Vered Israel and the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation. Tickets are \$5 for members, \$8 for non members and are available at the Soloway JCC Front Desk.

Vered Israel and the Friends of the Tel Aviv University are bringing Asher Susser, director for external affairs and senior research fellow at the Moshe Dayan Centre for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University, to the Soloway JCC on Monday, November 2, 7:30 pm, to discuss *Israel, the Palestinians and Barak Obama*. This lecture is free of charge.

For more information on all Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Programs, contact Ruthie Prince-Raz at 613-798-9818, ext. 243, or rprince-raz@jccottawa.com.



Rabbi Ron Kronish of Jerusalem will discuss Muslim-Jewish dialogue in Israel with a Sharia court judge, October 25, at Temple Israel and the Soloway JCC.

Rabbi and Sharia court judge to discuss Muslim-Jewish dialogue in Israel, Oct 25

By Rabbi Steven Garten
Temple Israel

On Sunday, October 25, Temple Israel and the Danbe Foundation are sponsoring two opportunities for the Ottawa Jewish community to meet with Rabbi Ron Kronish and Kadi Mohammad Zibdeh of Jerusalem, members of Kedem-Voices of Religious Reconciliation and the Inter-religious Co-ordinating Council of Israel.

The rabbi and kadi – a kadi is a Sharia court judge – are coming to Ottawa to discuss how interfaith dialogue is possible in Israel, a country in which politics, land and history divide religious communities. Their presenta-

tions will focus on the issues, challenges and achievements that permeate attempts at dialogue there.

In the morning, members of Temple Israel and the Ottawa Muslim community will gather at Temple Israel for a morning of sharing and learning. Following the presentations, there will be opportunities for these two communities to open a dialogue amongst themselves.

Later, at 7:30 pm, the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program will host an opportunity for the wider Jewish community to listen to this fascinating conversation at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. The evening event

will focus on the specific issues that will be of interest to members of the Jewish community who are interested in interfaith dialogue.

The Danbe Foundation, Temple Israel, the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program, Kadi Zibdeh and Rabbi Kronish all hope this will be an opportunity for members of our community to participate in a conversation about two communities struggling to live together while, all around them, events collide against co-operation. The opportunity to discuss life in Israel with these two individuals will be unique as little or no time will be devoted to the political issues that permeate other conversations.

Rabbi Lazer Gurkow to visit Ottawa

By Rabbi Yisroel Simon
Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad

As the temperature drops and winter nears, Ottawa Torah Centre (OTC) is presenting an opportunity to warm up in the glow of Shabbat with family and friends. A delicious Shabbat dinner will be served, Friday night, October 30, coupled with joyous songs and exciting discussions.

The guest lecturer will be Rabbi Lazer Gurkow, author of *innerstream.org*, "a web site devoted to presenting the inner stream of meaning within Torah." Rabbi Gurkow is also a long-standing scholar-in-residence with *askmoses.com*.

As noted at *innerstream.org*, "Rabbi Gurkow serves as rabbi to Congregation Beth Tefilah and resides in London, Ontario with his wife and four children. ... His rabbinic career began at sixteen when neighbourhood synagogues began to call upon him to lead services, read the Torah and offer sermons."

"... With his easy, informal manner of presentation, Rabbi Gurkow engages his audience and leads them on



Rabbi Lazer Gurkow of Congregation Beth Tefilah in London, Ontario, will be the Shabbaton guest lecturer, October 30, at OTC.

provocative journeys of thought. He has lectured on many topics and was invited to speak to audiences throughout Israel and North America. Gifted with the ability to present the complicated in

easily understood language, Rabbi Gurkow has successfully lectured to University students and community groups.

"A prolific writer, he is the author of more than three hundred articles that appear regularly in both on line and print publications. He is the author of a weekly Torah essay that is distributed via e-mail and is published on numerous websites."

"The delicious food and warm atmosphere have made our Shabbat dinners very popular in town," says Rabbi Menachem M. Blum, director of OTC.

"With Rabbi Gurkow in attendance, it promises to be an unforgettable and fulfilling evening of spiritual pleasure."

The Shabbaton on October 30 will begin with Kabbalat Shabbat service at 5:45 pm with the dinner following at 6:30 at OTC, 111 Lamplighters Drive. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. To reserve, call 613 843 7770 or visit attawatrahcentre.com.

Hillel Lodge awarded full accreditation with outstanding results

Accreditation Canada has awarded the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge its accreditation with an outstanding score that met or exceeded the national average in 461 out of the 474 eligibility criteria that were reviewed. Accreditation Canada rarely gives comparable long-term care organization scores as high as Hillel Lodge's.

"This award demonstrates our commitment to quality care and service to the community and is the result of hard work throughout our organization," said Stephen Schneiderman, executive director of Hillel Lodge.

"To achieve these outstanding results is something we can all be proud of."

Accreditation is a cornerstone to improving care and safety initiatives, which enables organizations to regularly and consistently assess and improve services and programs provided and delivered to residents.

Wendy Nicklin, president and CEO of Accreditation Canada, congratulated Hillel Lodge for its leadership and employee commitment to always work on ways to improve resident care at the Lodge. Nicklin says the home's efforts should be celebrated.

Ottawa Jewish community welcomes Abayudaya leader from Uganda on November 11

By Theodore Jacobsen
for Temple Israel

JJ Keki, a leader of the Abayudaya, a Jewish community in eastern Uganda, will be at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre on Wednesday, November 11, 7:30 pm, during a Kulanu-sponsored speaking tour of North America.

Kulanu – which means “all of us” in Hebrew – is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 that helps isolated Jewish communities around the world, many of whom have long been disconnected from the worldwide Jewish community.

However, the Abayudaya are unique in that they have no genetic or historical connection to the Jewish people. After converting to Christianity, they later chose to convert to the ‘mother’ religion of Judaism.

Not only is JJ (Joab Jonadab) Keki a leader of the Abayudaya, he is also a singer and musician who was featured on the Smithsonian Folkways CD, *Abayudaya: Music from the Jewish People of Uganda*, which received a Grammy nomination in the Traditional World Music category. Keki also has a recent CD called *Lecha Dodi*.

Keki is a member of the Abayudaya Congregation’s board of directors and its council of elders. He is also the founder and director of the Delicious-Peace interfaith coffee co-op. Keki was honoured, along with Kulanu, with an award from Tufts University’s Global Leadership Institute for his work on the

coffee co-op. The co-op was featured in the August 2008 issue of *Oprah Magazine*.

Rabbi Steven Garten established a committee at Temple Israel after hearing from Vancouver journalist Lorne Mallin, a Kulanu volunteer who has been working in the Abayudaya community of Nabugoye Hill since arriving there in April.

Inspired by Mallin’s eloquent newsletters, and after learning of Keki’s speaking tour, Rabbi Garten worked with Mitchell Bellman, president and CEO of the Federation, to have Ottawa included on the tour.

The Abayudaya community was founded in 1919 by Shirnei Kakungulu, who left the Imperial British East African Company, rejected ongoing Christian missionary efforts, circumcised himself, and started observing Shabbat.

The community’s spiritual leader is Rabbi Gershom Sizomu, the first ordained black rabbi in sub-Saharan Africa. He received ordination in the Conservative movement last summer after a year studying in Israel and four years at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles.

More than 700 members of his congregation of around 1,000 have been officially converted by Conservative rabbis and by one Reform rabbi who leads a Conservative synagogue. A smaller group is waiting for Orthodox conversion.



The main Abayudaya synagogue at Nabugoye Hill.

(Photo: Lorne Mallin)

One of Kulanu volunteer Mallin’s favourite projects is a feeding program he initiated for the 36 orphans at Semei Kakungulu High School.

The main goal of Keki’s speaking tour is to raise awareness of this remote Jewish community struggling to survive.

He also hopes to raise money for different projects in his community,

including Mallin’s feed-the-orphans program. However, the Abayudaya believe in the adage that it makes sense to help those who help themselves and potential supporters will be able to purchase Delicious-Peace coffee, Abayudaya music and even hand-crafted kippot at Keki’s speaking engagements.

After the Abayudaya community brought food to an isolated village

in northern Uganda stricken by famine, Rabbi Sizomu spoke about one of the central Jewish concepts of Tikkun Olam: “I believe that life takes precedence over everything,” the Rabbi said. “God is not going to stretch out His hand physically, so we are extensions of God’s arm.”

Keki will be bringing a similar message to Ottawa on November 11.



JJ Keki on a hill near the main Abayudaya village at Nabugoye Hill in eastern Uganda.

(Photo: Lorne Mallin)



Torah on Tap

JET on Campus presents Torah on Tap with Rabbi Avrami Gross, every Tuesday, 2:00-3:00 pm, at Oliver’s Pub at Carleton University. Pictured, left to right, at Oliver’s are Bryan Djordjevich, Robbie Wolf, Jonathan Lichtental, Daniel Tsyganovskiy and Rabbi Gross.



2010 Mission to Italy and Israel

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Hillel Academy and YRHS students run for Terry Fox

By Nicola Hamer
Communications Director
Hillel Academy and
Yitzhak Rabin High School
For the first time this year, Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin High School were delighted to participate in the Terry Fox National School Run day, on September 25.

The YRHS students ran first, on a course plotted around the Jewish Community Campus. They raised funds through pledges and also held a fundraising breakfast in front of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. The weather co-operated – it was a beautiful,

sunny and cool morning, perfect for running.

The high school currently holds fewer than 30 students, but they have a great deal of drive and spirit. They blew past their goal of raising \$1,000, bringing in \$1,317. Their hard work was paid off in fun as they were rewarded by watching their principal, Cynthia Bates, in a Jell-O eating contest with their phys-ed, math and physics teacher, Amy McKay. Youth triumphed over wisdom as McKay cleaned her bowl in no time flat.

The students and staff of Hillel Academy ran the course second,

guided by parent volunteers stationed around the course, and cheered on by the YRHS students.

The Terry Fox National School Run day happily coincided with Hillel Academy's first dress-down day. This year, Hillel Academy students are wearing uniforms, but once a month the students are allowed to wear their regular street clothes for a donation of a loonie or a toonie. Each month, the money will go to a different charity. Naturally, the September dress-down money will go to the Terry Fox Foundation which funds cancer research. The Hillel Academy students raised \$425.



YRHS teacher Amy McKay (right) revels in her victory over principal Cynthia Bates in a Jell-O eating contest after the Terry Fox Run. (Photo: Nicola Hamer)

Books and Bagels discussion series at Temple Israel

By Anne Alper and
Sbalya Mindell
for Temple Israel
Temple Israel has announced our *Books and Bagels* discussion series for 2009-2010 featuring books of Jewish interest.

All sessions will be held on Sundays at Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive, and begin with a complimentary bagel breakfast at 9:30 am, followed by the presentation and discussion at 10:00. Pre-registration is not required.

This year's program features two novels and two non-fiction books guaranteed to stimulate discussion.

The program opens November 1 with Gabriella

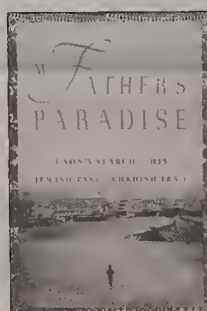
Goliger reviewing David Grossman's *Writing in the Dark: Essays on Literature and Politics*.

Grossman, a prolific and talented Israeli writer of both fiction and non-fiction, has been a voice for peace and reconciliation between Israel and its Arab citizens and neighbours. The six essays in this book address the conscience of a country that he believes has lost faith in its leaders and its ideals.

Gabriella Goliger is a noted Ottawa author. Her first book, *Song of Ascent*, won the 2001 Upper Canada Writer's Craft Award.

On November 22, Deborah

Saginur will review *My Father's Paradise: a Son's Search for his Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq* by Ariel Sabar.



The book tells the story of Sabar's father, Yona, a scholar of Neo-Aramaic at UCLA, whose family was among the last generation of Jews to live in the mountains of Kurdistan and speak Aramaic as a native language. It is also the story of a son's journey to bridge and heal the generational and culture divides separating him from his father and, ultimately, from his own

heritage.

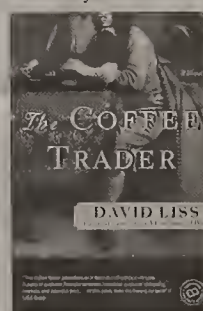
Deborah Saginur is a frequent reviewer for the Malca Pass Library Book Discussion Group and a dedicated volunteer who has been active with Canadian Jewish Congress, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, State of Israel Bonds, the Soloway Jewish Community Centre and Tamir.

The series will continue in the spring with reviews of two novels.

On March 21, Linda Rossman will review *Jay Comes in the Morning* by Jonathan Rosen. Set on Manhattan's Upper West Side, this novel is the story of the courtship and love affair of Reform Rabbi Deborah Green and the son of a patient she was counselling. It is very much a story about faith, both spiritual and human.

Linda Rossman is associate university librarian at Carleton University. She has been a regular reviewer at the Malca Pass Library Book Discussion Group and

served as a volunteer on numerous committees at Carleton and in the Jewish community.



The final *Books and Bagels* session will be April 11, when Mary Jane Maffini will review *The Coffee Trader* by David Liss. This historical financial thriller is set in Amsterdam in 1659 amid the backdrop of the Portuguese Jewish immigrant community, the Amsterdam commodities exchange and the seedy taverns that line the canals. Miguel Lienzo is a *canversa*, a Jew forced to convert

to Christianity, who continued to practise Judaism in secret. Destitute after losing a fortune in sugar futures, Miguel befriends a mysterious Dutch woman who introduces him to coffee, which has not yet taken hold in Europe. This new drink opens a world of opportunity, treachery, and revenge.

Ottawa crime writer Mary Jane Maffini is the author of three mystery series and nearly two dozen short stories. Her work has been recognized with two Arthur Ellis awards for short stories and has been anthologized in *World's Finest Mystery and Crime Stories*.

All of these books are available through the Ottawa Public Library.

Some are also available at the Temple Israel Library, the Malca Pass Library and the Greenberg Families Library.

For more information, contact Shayla Mindell at shaylamindell@ragers.com or 613-594-4556.

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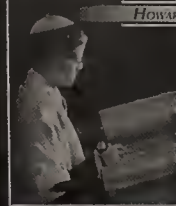
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Taking a Jewish look at werewolves and Halloween

This year, Halloween comes on the heels of my recent viewing of one of the most captivating modern comedy-horror films to emerge since that old standby of United Synagogue Youth shabbatons – *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*: John Landis's 1981 cult classic, *An American Werewolf in London*.

Watching Landis being interviewed on the DVD led me to puzzle over something fundamental to the classic werewolf tale. And, I would add, something essentially – though not exclusively – Jewish. That is, the age-old psychic tension between power and powerlessness in one's personal and collective life.

Those who've seen the movie will recall protagonist David Kessler, played by David Naughton, and his dramatic transition into a werewolf, for which makeup artist Rick Baker won an Oscar. With "Blue Moon" playing on the soundtrack, Kessler's spine curves, hair sprouts from his back, his fingernails give way to yellow claws, and his face stretches into a fanged, salivating mouth. And all the while he is sweating profusely and screaming in anguish.

In the interview, Landis speaks of the horrible physical pain depicted in the werewolf transition. And while Kessler's screams and contortions were duly evident, I still puzzled over this. I hadn't read the scene as physical pain at all. Rather, I had viewed Kessler's reaction to his becoming a werewolf as psychic pain, coupled with physical relief for what the body – or at least that part of the self – craved becoming. In short, I viewed it as more erotic than excruciating.

Power, eros and the Jewish experience have been well documented by historians of Jewish life, including histori-

an David Biale, who has illuminated the idea of Zionism as an erotic revolution, and literature professor Ruth Wisse, who has critiqued Israel's path to peace in terms of appeasement and power. And, elsewhere, I have written about Israel's actions in the Lebanon War and the first Intifada as bringing about a painful cognitive dissonance that led the state to pursue the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians in 1993.

I'm not the only one to read Jewish themes into *Werewolf*. Landis himself wrote the Kessler character as Jewish (there is some discussion in the London hospital of his having been circumcised), and there is a central nightmare scene taking place in Kessler's upper-middle-class American Jewish home, with the camera lingering on a brass menorah atop a bookshelf before machine-gun-toting Nazi zombies invade.

Fast forward to much more recent films and we have the informal trilogy of Jewish revenge movies, starting with Steven Spielberg's Israeli counterterrorism tale *Munich*, proceeding through the Second World War depiction of Daniel Craig as a partisan fighter in *Defiance*, and culminating with Quentin Tarantino's much-hyped *Inglourious Basterds* fantasy of Jewish homicide against the Nazis.

"The rebirth of Jewish swagger is having a real impact on the psyche of the American Jewish male. Just watch Sy Becker of WWLP-TV in Springfield, Mass. as he reviews *Defiance* and tries hard not to kvell," writes J.J. Goldberg in his blog on *The Forward* website (tinyurl.com/jjgoldberg).

All this leads me to surmise that, perhaps, Halloween is a most Jewish holiday after all. The candy-coated evening is all about coming to terms with our inner aggressor – that



Values, Ethics, Community

Mimi Sushan

aspect of ourselves that stands in stark contrast to our victimized self. Costumes enable us to try on what we are not, or even what we fear, in ourselves. Goblins, superheroes, historical figures: all these incarnations speak to some element – however inverted – of our everyday self.

It is, by now, a truism that Jews have suffered much powerlessness and victimization – epitomized by, but not limited to, the Holocaust. And, for many, the establishment of modern Israel represented the ultimate wielding of sublime power as the Jewish nation fought for its existence within a sea of enmity.

The story is not so simple, of course, and is still being written. It's being written by Jewish advocacy groups that fear a new round of anti-Semitism in our midst – with some arguing that they're doing the work essential to maintaining a free society, and others arguing that they're helping perpetuate a climate of fear. It's being written by Israelis like Ari Folman, director of *Waltz with Bashir*, who are attempting to come to terms with their country's battlefield past. And it's being written by all of us, every day, as we try to negotiate among ethical living, collective assertiveness and inter-communal belonging.

Halloween – like werewolf stories in all their creepiness – may just help us reflect on who we are and what we want, whether it's backward-looking revenge or forward-looking reconciliation, all while fuelled by an evening of painted faces, mini-chocolate bars and neighbourhood cheer.

Did you know who Henry Winkler was having lunch with?

In the few months that I have been writing this column, I have received a lot of positive feedback. Thank you. I firmly believe we should announce and celebrate the milestones, the accomplishments and the events of our community. But – as I constantly stress – I cannot do it alone. Without your input, the page is blank. If you know something that we all should know, tell me so I can tell the community. E-mail me at didyouknowottawa@gmail.com.

Who were the two beautiful women having lunch with Henry Winkler at Metropolitan Bistro? That's what the celebrity spotters were asking when they recognized *The Fonz* and his companions. They were Melissa Shabinsky, co-chair with husband Ian of the Annual Campaign kickoff event at which Winkler was the keynote speaker, and Winkler's escort for the day, Margo Shabinsky Sherman. Lucky them!

Have you seen the fall issue of the pocket-size magazine *Healthwise Ottawa*? If you frequent the city's fitness facilities, health food or sports stores, you are probably already a fan of the seasonal publication. But did you know it is published by Judy Field and edited by Kinneret Globerman? The fall issue includes a profile of cycling enthusiast Manny Agulnik written by yours truly.

A giant *todah rabah* to former Ottawan Bev Hymes and the Vandermeulen family for being the Judaic 'port in a storm' for Ottawa's Jewish students attending Dalhousie University in Halifax. Much to the gratitude of many local parents whose children are away from home on the Jewish holidays, the family generously welcomes the students into their home to share in their holiday celebrations.

She put up a good fight, but Janet Yale lost the federal Liberal nomination race in Ottawa Centre to Scott Bradley.

The Israel Recreational Hockey Association is hosting a non-contact, international hockey tournament at the end of January geared to players more than 35 years old, and Ottawa will be represented by a team of its finest players. Confirmed participants to date include Mitch Miller, who is organizing the event, Roger Greenberg, Lawrence Greenspon, Joel Diener, Mitchell Bellman, Steve Baker and Bob Wener. Bruce Deachman of the *Ottawa Citizen* will be the team goalie. Jeff Hunt, owner of the Ottawa 67's, will not only play on the Ottawa team, but also is generously outfitting the team with hockey equipment, which will be donated to Israeli players after the tournament. And, if playing hockey in Israel is not exciting enough, the team will be coached by Hockey Hall of Famer Daryl Sittler and, not yet confirmed, fellow Hall of Famer Lanny McDonald. Teams from Canada, the U.S., Israel and Europe are participating in the tournament, which will be held at Canada Centre in Metulla.

If you have seen *The Informant*, a true story starring Matt Damon as Mark Whitacre, the Archer Daniels Midland senior executive who blew the whistle on one of the largest price-fixing cases in history, then you will be interested to know that Andrea Rosen, as an executive at the Competition Bureau of Canada, played a key role in the real-life investigation. She met and interviewed Whitacre after he went undercover for the FBI, worked with the FBI agents portrayed in the film and interviewed many of the major players identified in the price-fixing scandal.



Did you know?

Benita Baker

Shelley and Morris Schachnow are kvelling over the accomplishments of their grandchildren. Granddaughter Stephanie Hagerman was one of two recipients of a CIBC Youthvision Scholarship, an award given to Grade 10 students. The scholarship is partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada and combines post-secondary tuition, paid summer internships at the YMCA and mentoring support to help youth reach their full potential. Grandson Joshua Schachnow graduated with honours from Sir Robert Borden High School with the top prize in chemistry.

We are all incredibly grateful to the young Israelis who defend Israel. Lorne and Laurie Shusterman have even more reason to be proud. Their sons, Zachary and Benjamin, both made aliyah in order to train as soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces. In mid-November, Ben will graduate from advanced training in the Palsar Unit of the Golani Brigade. Zak graduated from advanced training in November 2008 in the Palchan Unit of the Golani Brigade and also completed the Commander program. Looks like Zak will be coming home for a visit very soon.

Here's an interesting tidbit of information from our past. Popular CNN journalist Wolf Blitzer was the featured speaker at the inaugural Hy Hochberg Memorial Lecture, held almost 24 years ago on Hochberg's first Yahrzeit. At the time, Blitzer was the Washington bureau chief for the *Jerusalem Post*.

Interfaith Dialogue between a rabbi and a judge of Shari'a law

RABBI

Dr. Ron Kronish

is the founder and Director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel. He has graduated Brandeis University, Hebrew Union College and Harvard University.

& KADI

Mohamad Sibdeh

is a distinguished judge at the Shari'a Court in Jerusalem. He is a leading member of KEDEM, Voices for Religious Reconciliation.

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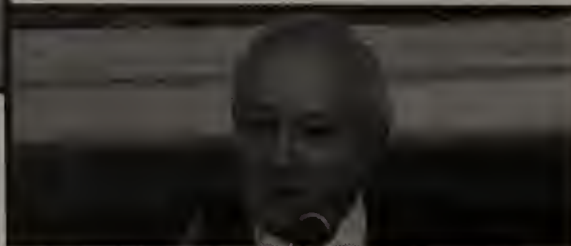
ISRAEL, THE PALESTINIANS BARACK OBAMA



A LECTURE BY

Asher Susser

former Director of the prestigious
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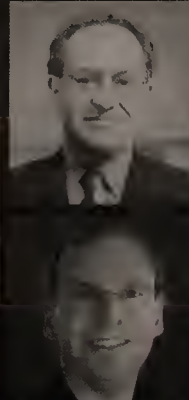
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**ALAN DERSHOWITZ VS. JEREMY BEN-AMI:
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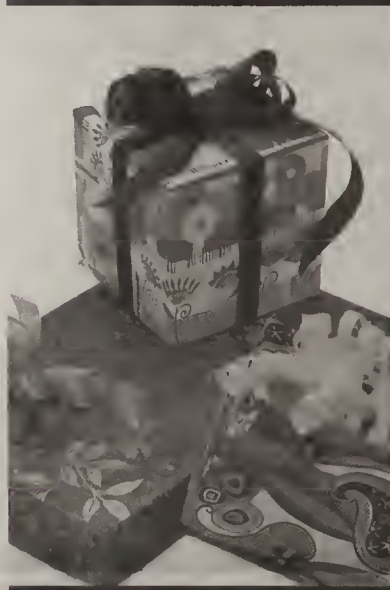
As the United States continues to support an embattled Israel while simultaneously establishing good relations with pro-Western Arab countries, American Jews, Israeli Jews and American politicians are wrestling with how to effectively approach Israeli security and peacemaking. Supply arms and aid to Israel without condition? Encourage more radical evacuation of settlements and a diplomatic approach to a two-state solution? The hawkish Dershowitz and the head of J Street, the new "liberal" Israel lobby, each make their case.

Tickets available at the Front Desk of the Soloway JCC
Members: \$10 / Non-Members: \$15

For more information please contact Gustavo Rymberg at 613.798.9818 ext. 271 or grymberg@jccottawa.com • www.jccottawa.com

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Examining the role of supplementary schools in Jewish education

*Learning and Community:
Jewish Supplementary Schools
in the Twenty-first Century*
Edited by Jack Wertheimer
Brandeis University Press 2009
Paperback
380 pages

The potential for Jewish supplementary education to be enjoyable and meaningful has long been a preoccupation of Jewish educators. In this book, sponsored by the Avi Chai Foundation, editor Jack Wertheimer, a professor of American Jewish history at the Jewish Theological Seminary, addresses these questions by assembling a team of academics to turn their lens on 10 Jewish supplementary schools "that work." They acknowledge the nadir that Jewish supplementary schools reached in the 1970s and 1980s, and their subsequent resurgence in quality and popularity.

The technology just wants to help

Do you realize how lucky I am? There are so many people, companies and things in the world that are worried about my welfare that I get a warm, fuzzy feeling. I admit it sometimes feels a little suffocating, but, what can you do when so many around you want to help?

I receive oodles and oodles of junk mail, offering to strengthen my manhood, increase my lifespan, make me a rich man and give me a firmer bust line. So many people are moved by the milk of human kindness to take care of little old me. And all for one low price!

I receive such generous offers of opportunities to win millions or a free vacation to the Bahamas that I feel truly loved. These people really want the best for me. I just have to make this one purchase and the whole world will be at my feet.

My doctor, the dentist and my car dealership also take care of me. They phone me to remind me when it is time for the next check-up or oil change and lube job – for me or for my car. But their care does not stop there. If I make an appointment with any of the medical professionals, their of-

Some of the schools profiled are independent, while others are synagogue-based. Most are Reform, Reconstructionist or Conservative; one is Chabad and another is more Orthodox-leaning. The result is an empirically dense but readable examination of how Sunday and afternoon schools can impart a sense of Jewish identity.

Wertheimer is neither cynical nor overly sanguine about the inherent challenges facing supplementary education. Kids might potentially resist adding three to six weekly learning hours onto full-time public school and other extra-curricular activities. Financial resources are an ongoing challenge, as we recently saw in the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's decision to end funding to two supplementary schools here. And attrition rates following the Bar and Bat Mitzvah year – with many kids and parents viewing that milestone as the sole purpose of Hebrew school – can be significant.

Naturally, perhaps, I found myself picturing a hybrid ideal drawn from aspects of the various schools presented. I was in-



Humour me, please

Rubin Friedman

fice phones the day before to check that I remembered my appointment. This is what my mother used to do when I was little!

It's not just people and companies who are so concerned about helping me out. All the technology around me also wants to pitch in. You've heard of the nanny state. Well, nowadays, we live the nanny life.

When I sleep in, my alarm refuses to shut off permanently. It comes on again in 10 minutes to remind me that I have to be at the office on time. The percolator at the office beeps when it is finished, as does the microwave. My cell phone beeps when there is voicemail I haven't listened to yet. The computer beeps when new e-mail arrives, which can be reassuring, or annoying, when 23 messages arrive in two minutes.

My car beeps when I use the remote to lock it. When I get out of the car and remotely lock it, it gives that short beep and I get the sense of satisfaction that I used to get after feeding infants when I'd lay them over my shoulder and burp them. And, if they didn't burp, something felt unfinished.

So, recently, when my car stopped beeping, I felt anxious. Was it something I did? The mechanic looked at me strangely when I told him the car wouldn't burp for me when I used the remote; so I laughed and said, "Hah, hah, hah! I meant beep." Still, he couldn't seem to see the gravity of a non-beep as the remote was still actually locking the car doors.

I am really comforted as I walk down the street and see all the security cameras watching. Now I know nothing bad can happen. So, when you hear the next beep, be of good cheer. Big Nanny is watching and you can almost hear her say, "I care. I really care."

Book Review

Mira
Sucharov

spired by the informal and "camp-like" atmosphere of Kehilla (it's not made entirely clear whether all or some of the names have been changed in the study to maintain anonymity), where Hebrew is seamlessly integrated as a living language and where teachers view the learning process as beginning the moment the child is greeted in the playground with *Mah nishmah?* (How's it going?)

Also fascinating is the formal incentive structure of the Chabad school where students are motivated to advance through levels of Hebrew reading, and explore Jewish practice through mock-ups of rooms in the home. (Bear in mind that almost none of the students at a Chabad supplementary school would actually be Chabad since members of that community are virtually uniform in sending their children to Jewish day schools.)

Other notable educational innovations are the family-centred learning initiatives taking place at various schools – including a family *d'var Torah* delivered collectively at the Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies at one synagogue, and the Shabbat school that takes place at another, thus maximizing the use of precious weekend time. There, teachers have created ways to teach without the use of in-class writing, so as to respect Sabbath prohibitions.

The high schools studied were encouraging for their emphasis on values, ethics and intellectual depth and ambiguity – though, sometimes, as the authors note, with content and Judaic texts being neglected. And, particularly for teens, the social aspect is understood by these schools to be essential for getting them in the door and willing to stay. Shabbatons, recreational activities and Israel trips help enhance what can already be a varied program – including courses on the after-life, Jewish theatre, and Judaism through photography.

Impressions of *success* seem largely anecdotal, however. The authors rely mostly on readers' instincts coupled with not-necessarily-systematic interviews with parents, kids and teachers.

Similarly, while a variety of teaching styles are discussed, few are evaluated in light of formal research in pedagogy. What, for instance, is the conventional wisdom in the field of education on the types of material-incentives practised at the Chabad school, where each child is given a plastic coin (redeemable for toys and trinkets a few times a year at the 'store') for every question he or she answers correctly?

Certainly, it sounds like the children love the high-paced, reward atmosphere, but whether this system will help instil an internal love of learning is debatable. And would the self-motivated advancement through the rungs of the Hebrew-reading ladder at Chabad lead the naturally less talented student to give up?

In practice, much of the debate around the ideal school is also inevitably related to taste and priorities. Does one prefer a laid back synagogue school where parents arrive in jeans and sweatshirts to study with their kids, or a more formal school atmosphere with exams and report cards? Is the acquisition of conversational Hebrew a priority, or do parents simply want their kids to learn to read the siddur?

One thing parents and educators seem united on, however, is that supplementary schools should be about more than just "colouring, colouring and colouring," and should make the complexity of Judaism and ethical living "apprehendable" rather than "simple."

The 10 schools profiled here have all risen well above that standard with pride and passion, giving hope for supplementary schools remaining an important part of the Jewish landscape.

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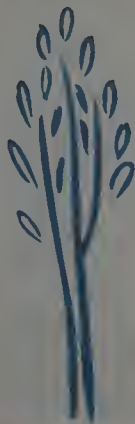
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Shayla and Bruce Cole on the birth of their granddaughter Madison Lily by Chaim and Helen Gilboa.

Tal Gilboa and Rob Steiner on their marriage by Oiane Koven.

Continued on page 24



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JACOB AND ROSE LANDAU MEMORIAL FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Rose Landau by Edie Landau.

ISSIE AND EDITH LANDAU ENDOWMENT FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Louis Goldberg, a dear father by Edie Landau.

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In memory of:

Susan Hendler by Ida Lesh.

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MURIEL LEVINE MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Peter Kreisman by Stan, Cathy, Mira and Michael Levine.

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Anniversary wishes to:

Sandra and Jacie Levinson on their 50th wed-

ding anniversary by Sol and Zelaine Shinder; by Carole and Norman Zagerman; and by Arlene and Mel Schacter.

RUTH AND RON LEVITAN ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Millie Merson by Ruth and Ron Levitan.

ERNEST AND IDA LEVITZ MEMORIAL FUND

New Year wishes to:

Ingrid and Gerry Levitz by Oladayo Shobola.

JOSEPH AND EVELYN LIEFF ENDOWMENT FUND

Speedy recovery to:

Elissa Lief by Andy and Joany Katz and family.

Gail Victor by Evelyn and Joe Lief.

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Birthday wishes to:

Norman Zagerman by Adele and David Loeb.

MURRAY AND MARY MACY ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to:

Murray Macy by Carole and Norman Zagerman.

New Year wishes to:

Sandra and Jacie Levinson by Murray and Mary Macy.

Shirley and Michael Molot by Murray and Mary Macy.

JACOB MALOMET MEMORIAL FUND

New Year wishes to:

Morris Kimmel and family by Diana and Alvin Malomet.

RHODA AND JEFFREY MILLER FAMILY FUND

In memory of:

Peter Kreisman by Rhoda, Jeff, Howard and Sara Miller.

Speedy recovery to:

Jeff Miller by Audrey, Gary Miller and family and Bryan, Shannon Epstein and family.

PERCY AND SHELLEY OSTROFF FAMILY FUND

In memory of:

Seymour Hollander by Percy and Shelley Ostroff.

DRS. TRUDA AND IMRE ROSENBERG EDUCATIONAL FUND

Mazel Tov to:

Dr. Truda Rosenberg for publishing her book by Mory Macleod and Jonathan Stokes.

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Birthday wishes to:

Helen Saipe by Carole and Norman Zagerman.

ELAYNE AND WESLEY SCHACTER ENDOWMENT FUND

New Year wishes to:

Bev and Bryan Glube and family by Elayne, Wesley, Adam, Casey, Josh and Michael Schacter.

Karen and Walter Fogel by Elayne, Wesley, Adam, Casey, Josh and Michael Schacter.

In memory of:

Peter Kreisman by Elayne and Wesley Schacter and family.

Condolences to:

Jim Merson on the loss of his mother by Elayne and Wesley Schacter.

HERMINA SCHACHNOW MEMORIAL FUND

Thinking of you:

Gerry Levitz by Morris and Shelley Schachnow.

SHMELZER-HOROVITCH ENDOWMENT FUND

In appreciation to:

Shlomo Feldberg by Anne and Sol Shmelzer.

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In memory of:

David Fleming by Myra and Lester Aronson.

Birthday wishes to:

Andrew Siman by Myra, Lester, Jennifer, Donna, Greg and Jordan Aronson.

DORIS AND RICHARD STERN FAMILY FUND

The Mendel-Tessler family on the loss their father by Doris and Richard Stern.

WILLIAM "BILL" STERNBERG MEMORIAL FUND

New Year wishes to:

Elsa and Norman Swedko by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

CASEY AND BESS SWEDLOVE ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Peter Kreisman by Carol-Sue and Jack Shapiro and family.

BRENT AND RISA TAYLOR ENDOWMENT FUND

New Year wishes to:

David Garson and Carolyn Zaretsky and family by Irving, Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.

In memory of:

Peter Kreisman by Brent, Risa and Shira Taylor.

IRVING AND ETHEL TAYLOR ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Ethel Taylor by Rosemary Sylman.

LISE AND MARK THAW FAMILY FUND

New Year wishes to:

Lise and Mark Thaw by Andy and Joany Katz and family.

STEPHEN AND GAIL VICTOR ENDOWMENT FUND

Get well soon to:

Gail Victor by Bernice and Donna Dolansky; by Yvonne and Yehuda Azuelos; by Arlene and Mel Schweg and family.

RUTH AND JOSEPH VINER ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to:

Sara Vered by Debra, Gary, Margo, Norman, Bob, Danielle Viner and families.

MILDRED AND PERCY WEINSTEIN ENDOWMENT FUND

New Year wishes to:

Archie and Linda Cogan by Millic and Bruce Weinstein.

Continued on page 25

Important Notice to all Fund Advisors of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation

If you would like to make changes
in the allocations from your endowment fund
for the 2009 disbursements,
the request needs to be forwarded
to the Foundation office in writing
and received by **October 31st**.

Changes received verbally will not be accepted
as an official change.



Please send your allocation change request to:

The Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation
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21 Nadolny Sachs Private
Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9

Fax: (613) 798-4695 Attn: Francine Paulin

Email: fpaulin@jewishottawa.com

Your cooperation is appreciated.

FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin – October 19, 2009 – Page 25

Birthday wishes to:

Debbie Weinstein by Millie Weinstein.

In memory of:

Peter Kreisman by Millie Weinstein.

Speedy recovery to:

Gail Victor by Millie Weinstein.

ZIPES KARANOFKY FAMILY

ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazel Tov to:

Dr. and Mrs. Peter Brett on the birth of their granddaughter, Abbie Mae Brett by Rick and Helen Zipes.

Arthur and Maxine Rabinovitch on the birth of their second grandchild and first granddaughter by Rick and Helen Zipes and family.

In memory of:

Peter Kreisman by Rick and Helen Zipes.



THE SAUL AND EDNA GOLDFARB

B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM

RYAN JEREMY BAKER

B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

Mazel Tov to:

Ellen and Murray Farber on the engagement of Noah to Diana by Benita, Steven, Alexander and Ryan Baker.

In memory of:

Edward Cohen by Benita, Steven, Alexander and Ryan Baker.

RYAN GOLDBERG

B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

In memory of:

Ruth Polowin by Mary and Len Potechin.

STACEY SAMANTHA KATZ

B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

Anniversary wishes to:

Cindi and Mark Resnick on their 30th wedding anniversary by Andy and Joany Katz and family.

LIEFF FAMILY

B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

In memory of:

Peter Kreisman by Francie and Norman Lieff.

Birthday wishes to:

Norman Zagerman by Francie and Norman Lieff.

Speedy recovery to:

Jeff Miller by Francie and Norman Lieff.

JAYME NADOLNY

MITZVAH FUND

In memory of:

Allan Freedman by Laurie Nadolny and Bill Green.

Contributions may be made online at www.OJCF.ca or by contacting Carolene Preap at 613-798-4696 extension 232, Monday to Friday. We have voice mail. Our e-mail address is donation@ojcf.ca. Attractive cards are sent to convey the appropriate sentiments. All donations are acknowledged with an official receipt for income tax purposes. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Amex.

In Appreciation

The family of **Ethel Tayor** offer thanks and appreciation to all their family and friends who offered support during this difficult time. Your cards and donations were greatly appreciated.

Irving Taylor, Brent & Risa Taylor and Susan & Mark Korn

Readers are advised
that In Appreciation notices
may not always appear
on Foundation pages,
particularly when space
is limited.

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TRAVEL INFORMATION EVENING

Wednesday, October 28th, 6:45 to 9:00 pm

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An abundance of apples

Traditionally, you would expect an article about apples in a Jewish publication to appear in the Rosh Hashanah issue. However, I seem to be in possession of a bushel of apples several weeks after Rosh Hashanah. This year, for some reason, we received about six gift baskets containing apples and honey. Even Carleton University sent us apples and honey! The honey will keep in the cupboard for ages, but the apples need to be used now.

Using apples in a dessert is easy, but I did not want to stuff myself and my family with apple desserts right now. Besides, what kind of a challenge is that? Using apples in desserts is a no-brainer. So some creative thinking was in order to use up those apples for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

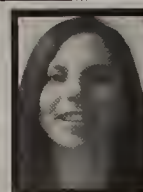
For breakfast, I immediately thought about apple pancakes, but I wanted something even easier, something I would make on a weekday. I was inspired by a package of Quaker Apples & Cinnamon Instant Oatmeal that had been sitting in my cupboard for ages.

I am not a huge fan of instant oatmeal. I find it does not have enough texture for me. I like my oatmeal with a bit more chew. Quick cook oatmeal is ready in about five minutes and that's quick enough for me. Quaker sells big bags of its Quick Quaker Oats and the only ingredient is oats. The instant oatmeal packets contain additional sugar and salt.

I love the combination of apples and brown sugar, so that was my starting point. I decided to amp up the apple flavour by cooking the oatmeal in apple cider, in addition to adding some diced apples. Once it was cooked, I transferred the oatmeal into heatproof bowls, sprinkled the top with brown sugar and put the bowls under the broiler to melt the brown sugar, sort of like a *crème brûlée*. It looked very pretty, but it was way too sweet.

On the second attempt, I substituted water for the apple cider and the results were yummy! You still got the apple flavour from the diced apples and the hit of sugar from the *brûlée* top was perfect.

Apples for lunch could be as simple as adding sliced ap-



Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

ples to a grilled cheese sandwich. Cheddar and apples make a fantastic grilled cheese, but, for a decadent sandwich, use brie instead of cheddar.

Below is a wonderful recipe for Israeli Couscous with Apples and Maple Vinaigrette from Giada De Laurentiis of the Food Network. The maple vinaigrette would also be wonderful with a green salad and diced apples if you didn't want to make the entire recipe.

For dinner, using apples in soup is a wonderful idea. Since most soups are puréed, this is a perfect way to use up those less than perfect, slightly bruised apples. Apples are a perfect complement to butternut squash. The slight tartness from Lobo or Granny Smith apples helps to balance out the sweetness of butternut squash.

Apple Oatmeal Crème Brûlée

Serves 2

- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 small tart apple, peeled and diced into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 cup Quick Quaker Oats (oatmeal)
- 1/4 - 1/2 cup brown sugar

Place oven rack in middle upper position (about 6 inches from broiler) and preheat broiler to high heat.

In a small saucepan, bring water, salt and apple chunks to a boil. Add oatmeal, turn down heat to medium low and cook for about 3 to 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Spoon oatmeal into 2 ovenproof bowls. Sprinkle oatmeal with brown sugar. For a real crisp *brûlée* top, you'll need at least 1/4 cup per bowl. If you prefer less sugar, about 2 tablespoons per bowl will be delicious, but you won't get it quite that *brûlée*.

Place bowls on a baking sheet and broil until sugar and oatmeal are bubbling, about 5 minutes.

Remove from oven, let cool slightly. Eat.

Israeli Couscous with Apples and Maple Vinaigrette

This recipe comes from Giada De Laurentiis of the Food Network.

Serves 6-8

- 1/2 cup slivered almonds
- 2 cups Israeli couscous (or barley or orzo)
- 4 cups low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1 1/2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary leaves
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme leaves
- 1 medium green apple, diced
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 3 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup olive oil

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Arrange slivered almonds in a single layer on a baking sheet and toast almonds in oven for 8-10 minutes until golden brown. Set aside to cool completely.

In a medium saucepan, heat olive oil on medium-high heat. Add couscous and cook, stirring occasionally until slightly browned and aromatic, about 3 to 5 minutes. Add broth and salt bring to a boil. Turn down heat to low and simmer for 10 to 12 minutes until all the liquid has evaporated.

Transfer cooked couscous to a large bowl and set aside to cool. Add parsley, rosemary, thyme, apple, dried cranberries and almonds.

For the vinaigrette, in a bowl, combine cider vinegar, maple syrup, salt and pepper. Whisk in olive oil until smooth. Pour dressing onto couscous salad. Mix well. Serve.

Roasted Butternut Squash and Apple Soup

Serves 6

While roasting the squash adds an additional hour to this recipe, I really like the depth of flavour that roasting adds. If you're short of time, skip the roasting and add the squash, peeled and cubed into 1-inch chunks in third step of the recipe.

- 1 large butternut squash
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 leeks (white and pale green parts only), halved lengthwise, then cut crosswise into 1/2-inch thick slices
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 baking potato, peeled and cut into 1 inch dice
- 2 tart apples, either granny Smith or Lobo, peeled and cut into 1 inch dice
- 4 cups vegetable or chicken stock

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Cut squash in half, scoop out seeds and place, cut side down, on a baking sheet. Bake in oven for 1 hour, until squash is tender. Scoop flesh out with a spoon and set aside. Throw out skin.

Wash leek slices in a bowl of cold water, agitating, then lift out and pat dry.

In a large soup pot, heat oil over medium heat. Add leeks and sauté over low heat until tender, about 5 minutes. Add cumin, thyme, salt and pepper and stir well. Add squash, potato, apples and stock. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer for about 20 minutes (or 30 minutes if squash was not roasted first), covered.

Purée soup. If using a blender, purée in 2 batches. Taste and add additional salt and pepper if needed. If soup seems too thick, add a bit of water to thin it out.



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Picture books that promote Jewish spirituality

As I've noted in the past, some authors of Jewish content kid lit consciously seek to do more than entertain their young audience. Their goal is to promote and enhance Jewish spirituality at younger and younger ages.

The usual method, used by the authors of three of the four books discussed below, is by identifying God with nature and nature with a young child's feelings and/or activities, thus promoting a link between God and the child.

While the fourth book, *The Waiting Wall*, employs nature to a limited extent, its true emphasis is on tradition, prayer and good deeds.

When I First Held You: A Lullaby from Israel

By Mirik Snir

Illustrated by Eleyor Snir

Kar-Ben Publishing 2009

32 pages. Ages 3-8.

Vibrant, cuddly illustrations and a simple, lyrical rhyming text combine brilliantly in *When I First Held You: A Lullaby from Israel*.

Together, they depict and promote the bonding that occurs when a baby – human, animal, bird or insect – is held for the very first time. All of nature – mountains, trees, rivers, grasses, winds, moonlight, clouds, sunbeams, rain, rocks and the sea – celebrates the solemnity and gentle joy of that magical moment.

As Rabbi Nachman of Breslov said, "The day you were born is the day God decided that the world could not exist without you." What could be more inspiring?

I Am God's Paintbrush

By Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

Illustrated by Annette Compton

Skylight Paths Publishing 2009

24 pages. Ages 1-4.

I Am God's Paintbrush is a simplified board book version of Rabbi Sasso's earlier award-winning book, *God's Paintbrush*.

Again, the emphasis is on nature, colours and such natural acts as laughing, crying, dancing, singing, etc. But, this time, the author celebrates both the parents' and the young child's ability to participate in these activities and thus honour and imitate God.



Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

Boker Tov! Good Morning!

By Rabbi Joe Black

Illustrated by Rick Brown

Kar-Ben Publishing 2009

24 pages. Ages 1-4.

Boker Tov! Good Morning! is an illustrated version of Rabbi Joe Black's original song about toddlers waking up and getting on with their morning routine.

In both pictures and text, the book joyously captures the notion of each day being a new, exciting adventure.

Boker Tov!, as a refrain, holds the morning routine together – whether it is getting dressed, reciting morning prayers, greeting friends or having fun at day care.

Rabbi Black's CD with the song is included with the book.

The Waiting Wall

By Leah Braumstein Levy

Illustrated by Avi Katz

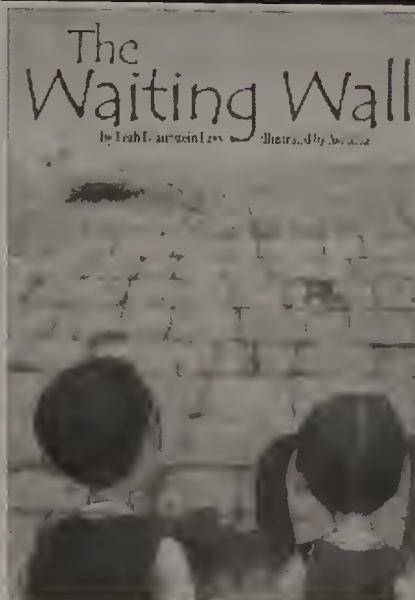
Hachai Publishing 2009

30 pages. Ages 3-6.

The Waiting Wall is an Orthodox depiction of the beauty, tradition, hope and inspiration associated with the sole surviving Wailing Wall (Western Wall) of the Temple in Jerusalem.

Although I don't usually have a problem with Ashkenazi Orthodox pronunciations – using an 's' rather than a 't,' for example, so that Kotel is written as 'Kosel,' I must admit to finding that troublesome on this occasion. For me, the 'Kotel HaMaarovi' will always be the Kotel.

Nevertheless, it is a pleasure to join a young brother and sister as they walk the Old City of Jerusalem with special



By Leah Braumstein Levy

Illustrated by Avi Katz

attention on the effect the *Kosel* has on them and their fellow Jews. Arriving at the *Kosel* after walking down hundreds of stairs, they are impressed with the size of its ancient stones, the variety of people who flock to it and the relative tranquility it inspires.

As they get closer to the Wall, they notice details: "people bend and sway in *tefillah* like trees in the wind;" the smoothness of the stones; the messages to Hashem; the birds and plants that live between the stones; and a sense of expectation, hence *The Waiting Wall*.

What is the *Kosel* waiting for? Perhaps for the one prayer or the one good deed that will usher in the *Moshiach*. Meanwhile, we must all do our best as we wait too.

Avi Katz's full-colour illustrations of the *Kosel*, and the people in prayer and celebration in front of it, beautifully capture the reverent spirit of the simple, lyrical text.

The Waiting Wall, Judaism's most special place, is well worth the experience as we, too, are there.

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WHAT'S GOING ON October 19 to November 1, 2009

For more community listings,
visit ottawa.planitjewish.com



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20
Dr. Henri Habib Lecture, sponsored by the Vered Israel Cultural Centre. Dr. Habib speaks on Middle East issues, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21
2009 Negev Dinner Kickoff, sponsored by the Jewish National Fund of Ottawa. A spirited evening to mark the beginning of the fundraising campaign, 7:00 pm. Call for location. Info: 613-728-2411.

Let's Do Lunch, a seniors' program sponsored by Jewish Family Services and Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 12:00 pm. Info: 613-728-3501.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
Baby Yoga, sponsored by Shalom Baby, 10:00 am. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

Oct 23 ☆ 5:47 pm
Oct 30 ☆ 5:36 pm

Young Women's Leadership Council Open House, an information session by the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa to launch the popular and innovative Young Women's Leadership Council, 11 Clemow Avenue, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 270.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
Family Sunday Funday, sponsored by the SJCC. A fun, physical family workout using hoops and skipping ropes, for children aged 5+, 1:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 303.

Shalom Ottawa, our community TV show on Rogers 22, 12:00 pm. Repeats October 29 at 6:00 pm and October 31 at 12:00 pm.

Hillel Lodge Auxiliary Tea in honour of Dora Litwack, Hillel Lodge, 10 Nadolny Sachs Private, 2:00 pm. Info: 613-820-4004.

The Rabbi and the Kadi: Inter-faith dialogue between a rabbi and a judge of Sharia law, sponsored by the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program and Temple Israel, with support from the Danbe Foundation, Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales

Drive, 10:30 am and Soloway JCC, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-224-1802 or 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26
Growing with your Children, sponsored by Jewish Education through Torah. A parenting class for mothers of children of all ages. Babies and small children can attend, 9:15 am. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 247. Continues November 2.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28
Wonderful Wednesdays, a seniors' lunch program, sponsored by Jewish Family Services and Congregation Machzikei Hadas, 2310 Virginia Drive, 12:00 pm. Info: 613-521-9700.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29
Lomir Reydn Yiddish, a Yiddish-speaking group hosted by Jewish Family Services, 2255 Carling Avenue, suite 300, 10:00 am. Info: 613-722-2225, ext. 325.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30
Shabbat 200, a worldwide project held at various campuses to get

200 students to attend a gourmet Shabbat dinner together, sponsored by the Chabad Student Network, Fauleux Hall, room 360, University of Ottawa, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-601-7701.

Opening of *Champion of the Child: Janusz Korczak*, a moving exhibition in words and pictures of the Polish-born doctor who attempted to save Jewish children during the Holocaust. Exhibit will run until November 22. Great Canadian Theatre Company, 1233 Wellington Street West. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 253.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
Book review and discussion, sponsored by Temple Israel. Gabrielle Goiger will review *Writing in the Dark: Essays on Literature and Politics* by David Grossman, 9:30 am bagel breakfast; 10:00 am book review. Info: 613-504-4556.

Ladies' Newcomers' Tea, sponsored by the Ladies' Reception Committee, to welcome Jewish women who are new to Ottawa, 13 Roselawn Court, 2:30 pm. Know of a newcomer to the community? Please call. Info: 613-727-1917.

In Love out of Faith, sponsored by Chabad Student Network. Doron Kombluth is a renowned speaker who lectures at universities around the world on the topic of intermarriage. People of all faiths welcome, 29 Gilmour Street, 6:00 pm. Info: 613-601-7701.

The Champagne Spy, a movie, presented by the Vered Israel Cultural Centre and the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation, which follows an Israeli agent who goes undercover to sabotage an Egyptian weapons program with unpredictable results, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

COMING SOON

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2
Israel, the Palestinians and Barack Obama, a lecture by Asher Susser, a professor of Modern Middle Eastern History and the former director of Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University. Sponsored by the Vered Israel Cultural & Educational Program and Friends of Tel Aviv University, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
Opening night: *The Children's Republic*, a play about Dr. Janusz Korczak and his attempts to save Jewish children during the Holocaust. Great Canadian Theatre Company, 1233 Wellington Street West, 7:00 pm. Tickets: 613-236-5196.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
Meeting of the members of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 236.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should send the information to InfoCentre coordinator Benita Slemiatycki via e-mail at bslemiatycki@jewishottawa.com or fax at 613-798-4685. She can also be reached by telephone at 613-798-4544. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public.

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Gerald Levitz
David Taller
Max Zelikovitz

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be a blessing always.

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BULLETIN DEADLINES

OCTOBER 28 FOR NOVEMBER 16
NOVEMBER 18 FOR DECEMBER 7*

2010

JANUARY 6 FOR JANUARY 25
JANUARY 20 FOR FEBRUARY 8
FEBRUARY 3 FOR FEBRUARY 22
FEBRUARY 17 FOR MARCH 8
MARCH 3 FOR MARCH 22
MARCH 17 FOR APRIL 5

* Community-wide Issue (all dates subject to change)